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A revival?



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Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (center) is briefed on Wednesday night's terror attack at the scene in the Moslem Quarter of the capital's Old City yesterday. (Brian Henders)

## Gov't beefs up Old City security after attack

By **ELLI WOHLGELER** and **JAY BUSHINSKY**

The government reacted swiftly yesterday to the Wednesday night murder of a yeshiva student in Jerusalem's Old City, announcing it would set up another small police post there and beef up patrols in response to the terror attack.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu described the attack, in which Gavriel Hirschberg, 26, was killed and Benny Dil, 18, was wounded, as an "unprecedented act of terrorism which was 'intolerable' and must not go unpunished."

Netanyahu noted that the assailants used Kalashnikov automatic rifles, stressing that this was a grave escalation in the type of weaponry used by hit teams operating in Jerusalem.

"This was an attack the likes of which we have never sustained," Netanyahu said yesterday at a news conference that mainly was devoted to the crisis within the Likud Party.

See **SECURITY**, Page 12

## PM proposes Likud primary referendum

By **SARAH HONG**

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday proposed going to the Likud's more than 200,000 members and asking them how they want the party to elect its Knesset candidates - via primaries or through the central committee.

Netanyahu's proposal, made at a press conference in his Jerusalem bureau, was roundly welcomed by Likud ministers and MKs who hotly oppose the recent convention decision to dump the primaries and who have been critical of its proceedings.

The party court last night quickly endorsed another proposal. Netanyahu made public at his press conference and appointed a team to probe all complaints regarding the convention. The team will be headed by the court's chief, retired judge Hanna Evenor.

The choice was criticized by Likud Knesset faction chairman Meir Sheerit, who crossed swords with her earlier in the week when she ruled that the Knesset faction could not set up its own inquiry. The team's other four members - Science Minister Michael Eitan, MK Reuven Rivlin, Hod Hasharon Mayor Ezra Binyamin, and former Rishon LeZion mayor Hananya Gibstein - were nominated by Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's press conference was the first time he faced reporters since returning from abroad on Wednesday. It followed another day crammed with political consultations geared to defusing the Likud's crisis.

His most important meeting was with Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who was close to joining the anti-Netanyahu rebels. Their two-hour meeting lasted longer than those with any other minister or MK since his return.

She said they "dealt with all the subjects on our agenda," but refused to elaborate, except to say, "We'll meet again."

At the press conference, Netanyahu emphatically denied any intention to sack her or any other minister.

See **REFERENDUM**, Page 2

### Netanyahu buys some time

**COMMENT**

won't be his fault if it can't be done.

However, if the over 200,000 party members are polled - and the Likud higher-ups can be counted on to move heaven and earth to make sure this happens - the likely answer will be that the rank and file want primaries. Many joined and paid their dues for no other reason than to cast their ballots.

Once they have their say, Netanyahu will not be able to shirk his commitment to put his full political weight behind the majority sentiment. It will also be morally impossible for the 2,750 central committee members to ignore the mandate of the 200,000 party faithful.

The ministers, meanwhile, believe that if the referendum does take place, the primaries will be restored. They also think that Netanyahu has, in effect, given in to their pressure, but that he has done it elegantly.

See **TIME**, Page 2

## Clinton cautious on Iraq, increases US forces

By **HILLEL KUTTLER** and news agencies

WASHINGTON - Washington gave a cautious welcome yesterday to what looked like a reversal by Iraq, but just in case sent more weapons to the Gulf and said it had nothing to do with any Iraqi-Russian deal on UN inspections.

President Bill Clinton said he would "wait and see" if Iraq meets a promise to comply fully and unconditionally with UN resolutions on the arms inspections, suspended last week when Iraq refused to let in American members of the UN teams.

Iraq said yesterday it would let UN inspectors resume their work, only hours after the conclusion of a meeting in Geneva by the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Russia, and the US, and a Chinese diplomat.

"The meeting of the foreign ministers ... strongly reaffirmed our unanimous position - Saddam Hussein must comply unconditionally with the will of the international community," Clinton told religious leaders at the White House. "In the coming days we will wait and see whether he does in fact comply."

See **CLINTON**, Page 12

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# NEWS

in brief

## Palestinian policemen jailed without trial

Three Palestinian policemen, who have been detained for four months in connection with a plot to attack settlers, are not to be indicted — even though they confessed and reenacted the attempted attack — but placed in administrative detention, Army Radio reported yesterday.

Authorities arrested Sa'ir Dueikat, Munjad Juda, and Faiz Tirawi last July, saying they were on their way to attack Har Bracha, near Nablus. They said at the time they had "electronic evidence" proving Palestinian Police chief Ghazi Jabali had sent the three to attack Jews and demanded the Palestinian Authority hand him over for trial.

## Rafael Eitan calls for unity government

Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan called for the creation of a national unity government, saying that the government is weak and threatened by both rebellion and abandonment from within.

He was speaking at a meeting of his Tsomet Party's executive committee, which also decided that the party will run independently in the next elections. Eitan also said that in talks with elements in the haredi community, a plan is being drawn up to draft yeshiva students into separate units that will guard holy places.

## Vanunu appeal hearing opens

Beersheba District Court yesterday began hearing another appeal by Mordechai Vanunu, convicted of espionage for releasing details of the country's nuclear program. While the content of his appeal were not made public, sources in the Organization to Prevent a Nuclear Holocaust said he wants the computer previously authorized by the court and a telephone placed in his cell. He is also seeking an end to his solitary confinement, to be allowed to speak to other prisoners, and to be allowed recreational visits to the prison yard. He has already served nine years of an 18-year sentence.

## Hollander seeks to rein in civil servants

Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander plans to ask Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to examine ways of barring civil servants from political activities. Hollander responded to a letter from the Movement for Quality Government in Israel following reports of political involvement by Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, the movement's spokesman said.

Hollander noted that current regulations do not completely bar senior civil servants from political activity.

## Holy See view of Jerusalem unchanged

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah this week said a recent agreement between Israel and the Holy See did not change the church's view of the political status of Jerusalem. The 1994 agreement defines the "juridical personality" of Catholic institutions and gives bodies such as monasteries, religious orders, schools, and charitable institutions legal standing similar to that of voluntary institutions in Israel.

Speaking as president of the Council of the Heads of the Catholic Churches, Sabbah said the agreement "does not change in any way, in the present or in the future, the legal or the political status of the Holy City of Jerusalem."

## Delegation to Nazi gold conference named

The Swiss government said yesterday that Thomas Borer, head of its task force on World War II, will lead its delegation to a British-sponsored conference on Nazi gold next month. Jean-Pierre Roth, vice president of the Swiss National Bank, will be his deputy.

Some 40 nations have been invited to the London conference, December 2-4, to discuss gold looted by the Nazi government and examine further restitution to Holocaust victims and countries pillaged during the war.

# General amnesty bid draws fire

By BATSHEVA TSUR

A proposal to grant a general 50th anniversary amnesty to prisoners has met with lukewarm reactions on the part of politicians and opposition from Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and President Ezer Weizman even before the committee preparing the celebrations presents its proposal to the government on Sunday.

Committee head and former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i is proposing that the jubilee be marked by a wholesale amnesty, such as was granted when the state was founded in 1948 and after the Six Day War in 1967.

But Rubinstein challenged the idea, saying that the two previous amnesties had proven "patently unsuccessful."

Following the 1967 amnesty, Rubinstein pointed out, 60 percent of those pardoned

were back behind bars within three years and more than 75% within five years.

While the president has the right to grant pardons, in consultation with the justice minister, a general amnesty can only be effected by the passing of a special law.

Beit Hanasi director-general Arye Shumer said last night that Weizman opposes a general amnesty. "The president does not make a connection between the 50th anniversary and a broad amnesty," he said.

Rubinstein pointed to the 30th anniversary, when individual pardons were granted and were followed up by rehabilitation, as a possible model for the 50th anniversary, but said he would not express his opinion yet.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that he has not had time to study the subject, since he heard about the proposal only

through the media earlier in the day. He said he would formulate his opinion after a thorough study.

Netanyahu, however, rejected suggestions that there could be a coalition deal behind the idea, with the aim of relieving Shas MK Aryeh Deri from standing trial.

"If there is such a deal, I am not aware of it and the decisions will not be taken without me," Netanyahu said.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi did not take a definitive stand, saying that if the proposal is made, it should be thoroughly discussed "by all the relevant parties." He said he had no statistics on the effect of the previous amnesties.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, however, indicated that his ministry is working in a somewhat different direction. For the past two weeks, Kahalani said, the Prisons Service has been drawing

up tentative lists of individuals who might be eligible. But, he said, the standards according to which such a pardon would be granted have yet to be defined.

"Decisions that are likely to cause public dissent, such as a general amnesty, should not mark the jubilee celebrations," Knesset Law Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom said. He called on the government to turn down the proposal.

"Perhaps there should be an examination of pardons on a personal basis, but I find it hard to see the connection between the celebration — in which we will express our pride in the state's achievements — and freeing prisoners who are dangerous to the public," MK Amnon Rubinstein said. "There has been a very dangerous rise in crime. The granting of pardons is a laborious process and can be speeded up — but not in connection with the jubilee."



## Current events

Palestinian Authority official Hisham Abdul Razik (left) gives a lecture on current events to 12th graders at Gymnasia Herzliya in Tel Aviv yesterday, after being introduced by principal Ron Huldai.

## REFERENDUM

Continued from Page 1

He also rejected the notion of advancing elections at his own initiative. A national unity government, he stated, would be possible only if other parties "subscribe to existing government guidelines. Then they would be welcome to join."

Netanyahu dismissed as "primitive disinformation and senseless speculation" press reports that he was threatening his ministers with the national whip and had already decided which of them would be forced to yield their cabinet seats and/or portfolios.

His most implacable foes,

Netanyahu asserted, are "a coalition of ambitions... It's OK for them to dislike me and disagree with me, but anyone elected on the Likud list owes a minimum of loyalty in Knesset votes — the budget, for example."

Netanyahu did not specify how the Likud rank and file would be polled about how to put together the party's slate of Knesset candidates and he did not say who would phrase the question. Moreover, he said the members' preferences would not constitute the final word on the issue that threatens to rip the Likud apart.

"The final decision will be that of the central committee," he explained to the press. "But I want to turn to each of our members and

ask for that member's opinion. I will take the answers back to the central committee and will place my full political weight behind whatever the majority preference among the party faithful is. We need to heal the rift in the party and this mandates unconventional moves."

Netanyahu said the "party court" will determine the inquiry committee's brief. I have imposed no restrictions and will not limit this probe in any way."

Asked about demands that Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman be fired, Netanyahu said only that "all of you know that I appreciate Ivet [Lieberman] and that our relations are close... A lot has been said of him that bears no relation to reality. He had been accused of all sorts of transgressions on all sorts of fronts, and everything was refuted. This is why a probe is necessary to get at the truth and avoid rushing into unfair judgment."

Netanyahu admitted that he, too, "had made my share of errors. None of us is perfect and immune from mistakes... but I believe I have made fair proposals and made them in good faith. Anyone who wants cooperation, understanding, and healing in the Likud will accept them."

But this is not what MK Ze'ev Begin thought.

"Netanyahu could have called for a referendum before the convention," said Begin. "He did not do so, because he wanted to secure for himself total unbridled control of the party. To that end he deceived his ministers. That is clear and not in need of any probe."

Eitan, who had not spared Netanyahu scathing criticism since the convention, cheered the referendum idea. "This is exactly what the party needs. This will get us back on track. This is the best news the party membership could

hope for."

He trusts that the Likud members will overwhelmingly support the primaries and thinks this is "a fair and wise way to resolve the question."

Sheetrit agreed, saying, "This is an excellent move and it is the beginning of the end of the crisis for this party."

But leading central committee activist Yitzhak Regev, one of the central anti-primaries campaigners, deplored Netanyahu's idea. "It will never pass," he predicted. "It goes against the party constitution, and Netanyahu is not above the constitution. I am an ardent supporter of his, but it can't be that a legal convention decision be challenged just because it undermines the ministers' vested interests."

Netanyahu also conferred with Yisrael Katz, who was chosen against his recommendation to chair the convention presidium. Katz warned him against overturning the anti-primary resolution.

## Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing ticket number 636828 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 899400 won the car. Tickets 826848, 315914, 821080, 348743, 598101, 166424, 131681, and 159775 won NIS5,000.

Tickets ending in 21904, 00367, 80635, 73913, 46476, 00478, 31277, 92418, 53925, 25991, 09159, 75172, 51159, 10808, 44567, 18847, 12380, 13757, and 05239 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 130, 358, 305 and 969 won NIS 100.

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10:00 - 10:45 **The Economic Dimension**  
S. Hazboun, A. Arnon, A. Spivak

10:45 - 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 - 11:45 **Re-evaluation of the Peace Process**  
K. Shikaki, Y. Hirschfeld

11:45 - 12:30 **Civil Society**  
M. Hassassian, E. Kaufman

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Ezra: Probe where rifle came from

PA official

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In these times you cannot afford to be without POST



# Another reason to believe

## BACKGROUND

By HERB KERNON

The terror attack in Jerusalem's Old City Wednesday night that killed Ateret Cohanim Yeshiva student Gavriel Hirschberg and wounded fellow student Benny Dil has once again focused attention on an institution committed to increasing the Jewish presence in the Moslem Quarter and in eastern Jerusalem.

Yossi Baumol, executive director of Ateret Cohanim, said letters were sent to the prime minister and internal security minister yesterday calling for more Jews in both places, accompanied by an increased security presence.

"We expect the government to make it clear that we are here to stay, and this [attack] will not benefit [the Palestinians]," Baumol

said. The best way to do this, he added, is to increase the number of Jews living in eastern Jerusalem.

But giving the green light for more Jews to move into the Old City or Arab neighborhoods as a reaction to the attack would only "pour oil on the fire," said Palestinian National Council representative Ziad Abu Zayyad.

"I am concerned about this," Zayyad said. "We have a lot of problems in the peace process. I don't think they will add another problem - I hope not."

According to Baumol, the government made a decision yesterday to turn an abandoned building called Beit Elhanan near the yeshiva into a police post.

Beit Elhanan, and another build-

ing nearby called Beit Elyahu, were taken over by Ateret Cohanim in March 1991, the last time an Ateret Cohanim student, Elhanan Atali, was slain in a terrorist incident. In reaction to that attack, the Shamir government allowed the yeshiva to take over two buildings in the Moslem Quarter - one was named Beit Elhanan after Atali, and the other Beit Elyahu, after yeshiva student Elyahu Amedi, who was stabbed to death in the Old City in 1987.

These two buildings had been expropriated by the government for security reasons in 1969 and stood empty until given to the yeshiva in 1991. However, a court battle led to the eviction of Ateret Cohanim from the buildings soon after Labor came into power in 1992, and they have been empty since then.

Ateret Cohanim, located in a Moslem Quarter building that once housed the well known Torat Haim Yeshiva, was established in 1978 by graduates of the Mercat Harav Yeshiva intent on moving into all parts of the Old City. In addition to the main yeshiva, Ateret Cohanim also runs a pre-military yeshiva called Ateret Yerushalayim.

There are some 300 yeshiva students, and about 60 families living in the Old City outside the Jewish Quarter. In addition to Ateret Cohanim and Ateret Yerushalayim, there are three other small yeshivot in the Moslem Quarter.

Yisrael Kimche, a municipal planner and researcher for the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, said he does not envision a move into other Old City properties as a result of this week's terror attack, simply because there are no other properties available.

"They may want to move more Jews into the Moslem quarter," Kimche said, "but there is nowhere to put them, and there is no room to build."

# 'It was a privilege to know him'

By ELLI WOHLGELERITER



Gavriel Hirschberg (Reproduction: Isaac Harari)

The students of the Ateret Cohanim Yeshiva went back to learning yesterday, sitting across from each other in the study hall or by themselves, at yellowish tables squeezed close together. A picture of Avraham Isaac Hacohen Kook, former chief rabbi and spiritual mentor of the national religious camp, looked down from the wall.

Spread out on the tables before them were books of Torah, and even a few laptop computers with Torah programs on screen. It was, as expected, a subdued atmosphere, missing the usual cacophony of students arguing one with the other the fine points of Talmud.

Outside in the narrow hallway, the talk was of Gavriel Hirschberg. "You never met a person like this," said fellow student Dudi Bar-Sela. "He lived in the Diaspora, grew up with no Jewish education, yet felt such a connection to this country that he decided to make aliya and return to Judaism." Hirschberg, who was 26 and unmarried, immigrated to Israel five years ago from Hungary, together with his brother. Their parents still live in Hungary.

After his three-year army service in the Golani Brigade, he came to study at Ateret Cohanim a year ago.

"He would come to the beit midrash here, and sit in the corner and learn," said Bar-Sela. "He was very introverted, didn't talk to anyone. In class, when the rabbi was teaching and people would get involved in the text, he would sit in the corner and not speak - but he knew everything that was going on. And he wasn't just learning Torah - he was living it. You could see it in his characteristics, his behavior."

"He was alone here in Israel, just he and his brother, no support system," said Bar-Sela. "Everyone else has family, old friends - he didn't have anyone. When the students went on vacation, he stayed here, but he didn't complain... It was a privilege to have known him."

It was Hirschberg's dedication to Torah that had him learning late Wednesday night. By midnight he was tired, and left with a friend to return to the dormitory. But waiting in ambush at the foot of some stairs on El-Iabsha Street was a terrorist with a Kalashnikov assault rifle.

As Hirschberg and his friend, Benny Dil, walked up the street toward their dorm at 12:23 a.m., they were met by a burst of fire. Hirschberg was hit in the leg and fell, and the gunman fired six more bullets into him. Dil, seriously wounded, fled to the nearby house of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, where guards gave him first aid and called an ambulance.

Outside the yeshiva yesterday on Hagai Street, amid an increased police presence, Arab shops were open as usual.

"We just want peace," said one shopowner. "This is terrible for business, when no tourists come." It was the open shops that bothered Raya Cohen, an 18-year veteran of the Old City.

"After other attacks, the Arabs didn't open their stores, they didn't drive up and down with their tractors," she said. "One Arab neighbor came to me and said he was sorry, but I feel that in general they don't feel uncomfortable, and this makes me so upset - I am in a bad place, and they should feel uncomfortable."



Border policemen arrest suspects Wednesday night in Jerusalem's Old City. (Flash 90)

# Ezra: Probe where rifle came from

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

MK Gideon Ezra (Likud) demanded an investigation to determine if the Kalashnikov assault rifle used in Wednesday night's attack in Jerusalem belongs to a Palestinian policeman.

"The personal weapon used by a majority of Palestinian policemen is the Kalashnikov, and therefore the Palestinians must carry out a thorough investigation to determine to whom it belongs and where it came from."

Ezra, a former deputy head of the General Security Service said the last attack in the capital in which a Kalashnikov was used was in Nahalat Shiva on October 9, 1994. "Then it was proven that the rifle used belonged to a Palestinian policeman," he said.

Ezra said that until the details are known, he is unable to state if there was a link to the recent Palestinian Authority release by the Islamic Jihad and Hamas prisoners.

# PA officials blame Netanyahu for attack

By STEVE RODAN and LIAT COELANS

Palestinian Authority representatives blamed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday for the terrorist shooting that killed Ateret Cohanim Yeshiva student Gavriel Hirschberg and wounded fellow student Benny Dil.

Meanwhile a PA security source said that Palestinian cooperation in investigating the attack, which occurred in Jerusalem's Old City early yesterday morning, would be limited.

Hisham Abdul Razik, a PA official on the joint Israeli-Palestinian security committee, condemned the shooting.

"All acts of violence hurts the peace process and have negative effects," he said. "It doesn't give hope. It just puts things backwards."

But Razik and other PA officials were much more specific in assigning blame for the attack. Razik said the Netanyahu government has refused to implement the

interim agreements with the PA and the current talks meant to carry out the accords have proven useless.

He also said that the seizure of two Hamas suspects from PA custody last week was a "brutal kidnapping by the Israelis. It hurt the authority. The Israelis should return them to the PA and let them go back to prison where they had been serving time."

A PA security source went further. He said that the Preventive Security Apparatus, headed by Col. Jibril Rajoub, would not cooperate with the General Security Service until the two Hamas detainees are returned. Rajoub has been accused by Hamas of alerting the GSS to the transfer of the prisoners in a gesture meant to satisfy the Israelis.

Rajoub has denied the accusation. The Palestinian Legislative Council has established a committee to investigate the affair and plans to draft a report in the next few days.

Some MKs also used

Wednesday night's fatal attack in Jerusalem as an opportunity to condemn Netanyahu.

"Netanyahu's frivolousness and his dealings with the power struggles and problems within his government do not allow him to concentrate on security, furthering the peace process, and dealing properly with affairs of state," Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen said. "A weak prime minister is a threat to national security."

Meanwhile, Moleket leader Rehavam Ze'evi said the "obvious response to the attack should be to immediately populate Ras al-Amud, speed up the construction of Har Homa, and ensure massive Jewish construction everywhere possible in east Jerusalem."

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, of the National Religious Party, whose Knesset faction is to meet Monday to discuss the attack, said: "The Palestinian Authority is not fighting terror and is not rooting it out. We know the PA has released large numbers of Hamas members and the terrorists

are out there on the ground. The attack in Jerusalem shows that the Arabs have not accepted the principle of acting and negotiating only peacefully."

Meretz whip Haim Oron disagreed, saying the solution is "to stop the provocative settlement of Ras al-Amud and talk to the Palestinians."

# Whose Wall is it, anyway?

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Does the Western Wall really belong to Israel? That may depend on just where you're standing.

According to Jerusalem attorney Dr. Shmuel Berkovitz, who looked into the matter for the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, the greater portion of the Wall is legally owned by the Moslem Wakf.

Berkovitz explained yesterday that in April 1968, Israel acted to expropriate the Old City's Jewish Quarter and the Mugrabi Gate to demolish old buildings and clear the way for the Western Wall Plaza.

However, the government never included the Wall itself in the expropriation, to prevent a renewal of the struggle over the site that existed for decades, and which burst into violence under the British Mandate in 1929, leading to the Hebron and Safed riots in which dozens of Jews were killed.

"They simply did not want to exacerbate that dispute again,"

Berkovitz said, denying reports that appeared in the Hebrew press yesterday claiming that the government simply "forgot" about the Wall.

"However, in the map of the expropriation order, and I'm not sure how this happened, the bottom meter of the Wall, that is, its base, is included for a length of 140 meters, which includes all the prayer space at the foot of the Wall and the archeological excavations there," Berkovitz explained.

"However, legally and formally, the remaining portion of the wall still belongs to the Wakf."

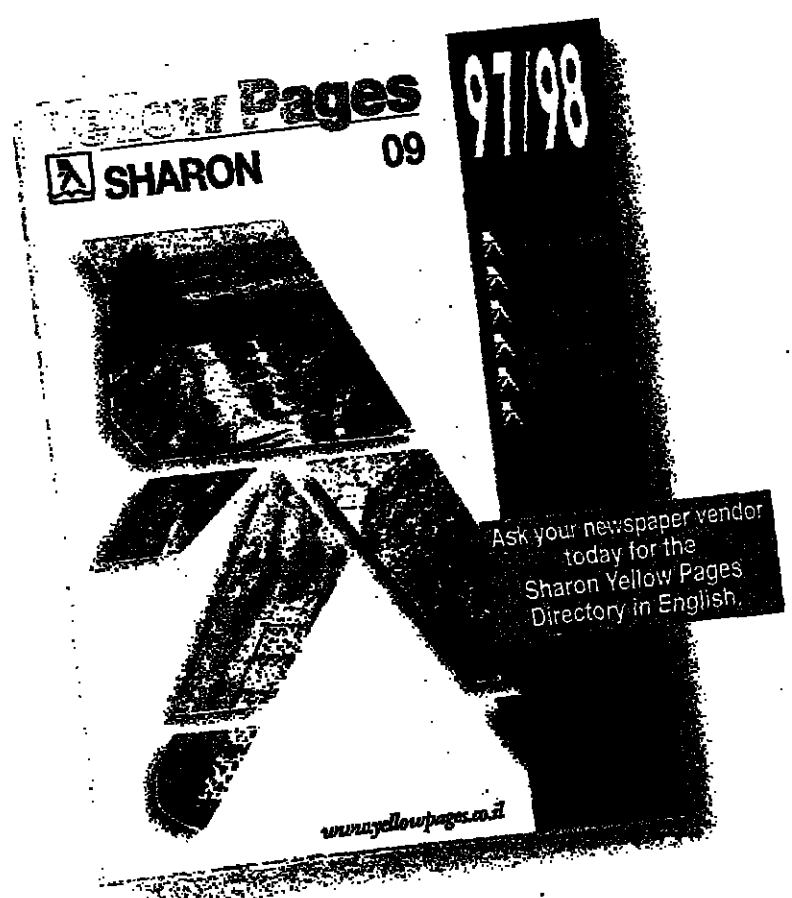
The Palestinian Authority has claimed that the Wall belongs to the Wakf by right of a 150-year old Syrian document.

Asked what impact this discov-

ery could have on the future of the site and negotiations on its future status, he said: "The registration itself will have little impact, because it won't be legal but political arguments which will ultimately determine what happens there, and those decisions are likely to be connected with an overall political plan for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian dispute."

He noted that "the Moslems have more or less accepted the Western Wall as being an exclusively Jewish prayer area, but they are very sensitive to everything that happens there, because of their historic fear that the Jews would use the Western Wall as a place from which to enter the Temple Mount and destroy the mosques."

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Continued from Page 1

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# TV: European heads attack PM in letter

By JAY BUSHNISKY

Senior government officials were unaware yesterday of a letter blaming Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for bringing the peace process to a halt reportedly being brought to Jerusalem by French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Channel 2 said. It contains a "very forceful demand" that Israel fulfill its commitments with regard to another troop withdrawal in the West Bank this month, Channel 2 went on.

Arad knew nothing of the letter and saw no reason for it. "The prime minister saw Blair in London last Thursday, is scheduled to meet with Kohl in Bonn on December 4, and has an open invitation to meet Chirac in Paris," he said. "So why the letter?"

## Drug 'mule' dies from overdose

A Nahariya man, 24, died on the roof of a friend's house on Tuesday after a vial of cocaine he had smuggled from Colombia came open in his stomach, police announced yesterday. Police said an autopsy found 26 small containers of cocaine, weighing a total of 350 grams, in his stomach, plus an empty vial that had contained the estimated 6 grams that killed him.

## Lithuanian war-crimes suspect indicted for genocide

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP). — Kazys Gimzauskas, 89, who served in the Vilnius regional security police during the Nazi occupation of Lithuania, has been indicted for genocide during World War II, the Baltic News Service reported yesterday. He is suspected of having been behind the arrest, imprisonment, and subsequent deportation to concentration camps of Lithuanian Jews.

Arad knew of Vedrine's pending arrival and said that appointments have been scheduled for him. The prosecutor announced his decision to indict Lileikis, 90, earlier this year, but was hampered by a law prohibiting indictments that could endanger the lives of people who are infirm.



Maj-Gen. Gabi Ophir (left) listens as Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom (right) addresses yesterday's ceremony in Ramle at which Ophir assumed the helm of the Home Front Command. In the center is Ophir's daughter, an IDF officer. (Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

## Ophir takes over Home Front Command

Maj-Gen. Gabi Ophir took over the Home Front Command yesterday, just as the Saddam Hussein-sparked mad rush on gas mask distribution centers was easing, after it appeared that diplomacy had ended the three-week standoff between the US and Iraq.

But after yesterday's announcement by Iraq that it had agreed to allow American weapons inspectors to return, lines were reported to be shorter. The Home Front Command hopes the flow will remain steady at about 5,000 a day. Before the crisis with Iraq, about 2,000 people a day reported to update their gas masks.

chemical protection distribution branch. "I just hope we won't have to go through the real thing." The current crisis caught the Home Front Command without a commander, since Ophir's predecessor, Maj-Gen. Shlomo Arad, retired from service nearly three months ago.

ing to worry about," Ophir said, after assuming command at the headquarters in Ramle. "We, the Home Front Command, are still deployed to hand out gas masks as we are every day, all of the time." Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom said the government on Wednesday had finally freed the NIS 50 million previously allocated to the Home Front Command for chemical protection equipment.

## New profile system means more combat troops

The IDF Medical Corps has revamped its medical profile system to offset a growing tendency to certify fewer and fewer youth fit for combat duty, as detection of physical disabilities by doctors improved.

ability to do a better diagnosis, give better medical treatment, allows us to pass people now who before would have been heavily restricted in their service." According to the new system, people suffering from asthma can now be given combat duty. Those with heart murmurs and even kidney defects will now not be automatically exempt from service.

Brig-Gen. Yehuda Segev, head of planning in the IDF Manpower Branch, said that the new medical profile chart means there will be more combat-fit soldiers. This, he said, will allow more conscripts to serve in place of reservists.

A preliminary survey found that the new profile system increased the number of combat-fit soldiers by 3 to 5 percent. Candidates for field units, who need lower profiles than combat soldiers, rose by 2 to 3 percent.

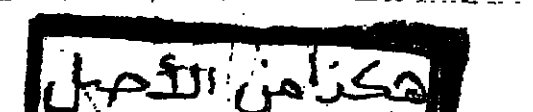
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Lebanon
A-G slams MK's Beinisch allegations
Ministry warning 'youth' hormones



# Lebanon quiet is 'deceptive'

By DAVID RUDGE

The relative quiet in south Lebanon in the past two weeks is misleading, sources said yesterday.

Long-range firing at primarily South Lebanese Army positions has been continuing at an average of two incidents a day, although without causing any serious casualties.

Similarly, there have been attacks on IDF patrols and troops patrolling in the security zone, but also without any casualties or damage.

Some security sources believe that the relative lull is the result of a combination of factors.

In incidents yesterday afternoon, IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jabal Safit region,

north of the zone in the eastern sector of south Lebanon and four SLA soldiers were wounded in a roadside bomb blast.

They said the SLA soldiers were travelling to their outpost in Kantara in the central sector of the security zone when the bomb was set off. In Beirut, Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack.

The IDF spokesman said that the pilots reported accurate hits on the targets. It was the 79th raid by the IAF on terrorist targets in Lebanon since the beginning of January.

There were no reports of any Hizbullah casualties as a result of the raid. Nevertheless, the air strikes are aimed at disrupting the activities of the various terror organizations in south Lebanon, in particular Hizbullah.

Some veteran Lebanese observers, however, believe that the "relative quiet" is due to a decision by Hizbullah to ease off for the time being in order not to give Israel an excuse for massive retaliation.

"It is quite probable that Hizbullah is taking time out to prepare and organize for its winter campaign against the IDF and the SLA," said one veteran observer.

"It is also possible, however, that the organization has assessed the present situation in Israel - in particular the shape of the prime minister - and believe he might be in the mood to do something, given the opportunity, to try distract attention from his domestic problems. This could also be a reason for the relative quiet of late," said the observer.

## Lahad blasts Beilin in letter

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Gen. Antoine Lahad, commander of the South Lebanese Army, chastised Labor MK Yossi Beilin for saying protecting the SLA is not a good enough reason to prevent a unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon.

Lahad wrote to Beilin that it is his right to speak out against abandoning the SLA and that such comments are not, as Beilin had put it, "meddling in the internal affairs of Israel."

"The question of a unilateral withdrawal from south Lebanon is not an internal Israeli question," Lahad wrote, "since it has direct bearing on the future of the residents of the security zone whose blood has been spilled together with Israeli soldiers for the past 20 years."

The two-page letter was dated November 10, a day after Beilin launched the Movement for Leaving Lebanon Peacefully, aimed at conducting an ongoing public and political campaign to get the IDF out of Lebanon.

"As a Lebanese citizen, I await and hope with all my heart, more than you, for the day that the IDF withdraws from south Lebanon," Lahad wrote. "But I believe that this sort of withdrawal should only be carried out on the basis of a bilateral agreement between Israel and Lebanon."

## A-G slams MKs' Beinisch allegations

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel yesterday gave public support to Supreme Court Justice Dorit Beinisch and deputy state attorney Yehoshua Resnick, whom MKs said had been promoted to their positions for helping keep details of the Avishai Raviv affair under wraps.

In a Knesset debate Wednesday, Shas MK David Azoulay and MK Benny Elon of Moledet charged that Beinisch, working in cooperation with the General Security Service, had closed files against GSS informer Raviv when she was still state attorney.

Resnick is the prosecutor in the fraud trial of Shas leader Aryeh Deri, and has often come under attack from that party. It was not clear what Azoulay believed Resnick's role was in the Raviv case.

"The system of attacking public figures and particularly those who are forbidden to react publicly... by attributing ulterior motives to them, has to be condemned," Rubinstein and Arbel said in a statement yesterday evening.

They stressed that the prosecutors had been motivated by public interest and took into account security considerations with regard to Raviv.

"It is important to stress that only a small number of files against Raviv were closed by the State Attorney's Office, mostly not on the grounds that he was an agent who should not be exposed," the statement said.



Alyn residents protest yesterday in Jerusalem. The placards demand the dismissal of two social workers, whose methods of treatment sparked off a dispute at the hospital.

## Alyn residents agree to talk about dispute

By JUDY SIEGEL

A showdown between severely handicapped young residents of Jerusalem's Alyn Orthopedic Hospital and Rehabilitation Center and its directors was eased yesterday. The residents had refused to go to school for five days, and management fought back by suspending their privileges.

Demanding the dismissal of two social workers whom the 30 permanent residents claimed "don't treat us like human beings," the residents hung signs of protest through the hospital and refused to be bused to their studies.

Alyn director Dr. Shirley Meyer, who failed to reach any

understanding with them, cancelled the transportation which takes them in their wheelchairs to university, jobs, or shopping centers in the afternoons. In-house recreational and cultural events were also halted.

The residents claimed that the social workers, who were put in charge of their department four months ago, "think we're retarded, which we're not. They don't let us participate in decision-making." They also said that they pay Alyn NIS 130 monthly for afternoon transport, so "she has no right to take it away from us."

Meyer, who has been director of the hospital for 15 years, said the two new department heads were instructed to teach the residents more self-discipline and to

be more independent. "Perhaps we have spoiled them all this time; this was a mistake. But we want them to be able to conform to schedules, learn to run their own bank accounts, and so on. We applied sanctions because they refused even to talk to management about the disagreement."

Meyer added that the NIS 130 payment covered only a fraction of the real cost, so the hospital had a right to suspend the transportation services.

The residents sent a letter to Meyer saying they would sit with her only in the presence of an Association for Civil Rights in Israel lawyer next week and on condition that the two social workers are fired, but an indepen-

dent mediation effort by a staffer induced Meyer to speak to the residents, who agreed to continue talks in a positive atmosphere and without preconditions. Management's sanctions were then cancelled, but residents said that if at least one of the department heads isn't dismissed, they would consider resuming their struggle.

## Sharansky slammed at Academy Awards

By HELEN KAYE

The Israel Academy Awards stage became a political boxing arena on Wednesday night, with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky absorbing most of the punches.

"Call him," director Doron Tzabari said, unveiling a photo of Sharansky with the minister's phone number. Tzabari, whose *Shuli's Guy* was selected as the best TV drama, was the most outspoken of the half-dozen winners who castigated Sharansky for cutting funds to the film industry.

"Last year he came here waving checks, and they bounced," said Tzabari, urging his audience to inundate the Industry and Trade Ministry with calls.

Actress Gila Almagor, who received a Life Achievement Award, said that Sharansky has

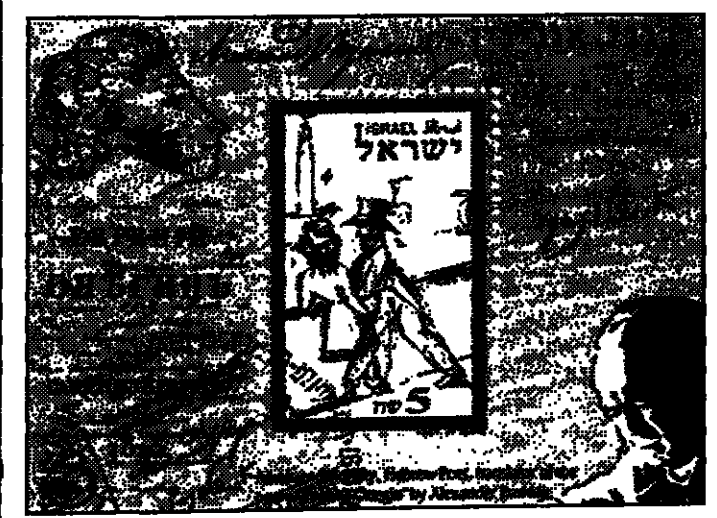
"no right to pull out a root of Israeli culture. We will not permit you to destroy Israeli cinema."

At the ceremony, *Afula Express* by Assaf Amir won the best film award and five other prizes. (A review of the film will appear in Monday's *Jerusalem Post*.)

In an oblique dig at the minister, Communications Minister Liron Livnat said that her office had decided to increase to NIS 4 million its funding for original TV dramas.

Sharansky said on Army Radio yesterday that "the allocation to the Quality Film Fund was NIS 4 million. I added another million and transferred the funds to the Ministry of Education and Sport. What has Industry and Trade to do with quality films? If the industry wants government funding, let it establish criteria instead of whining."

Aryeh Dean Cohen contributed to this report.



## Joint Israeli-Russian stamp

The first-ever joint Israeli-Russian stamp was issued this week by the two countries' philatelic services. The NIS 5 stamp, designed by Pekarshaya Marina Yefimovna of Moscow, commemorates the writing of 'Eugene Onegin' by Alexander Pushkin and its translation into Hebrew by the late Israeli poet Avraham Shlonsky.

## Ministry warning on 'youth' hormone

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry yesterday issued a warning to the public against purchasing or taking "Men's Formula" or other forms of DHEA, a steroidal hormone that has begun to appear in pharmacies and health food stores.

The sale of the product, and its marketers' illegal and false claim that it received Health Ministry approval, was brought to the ministry's attention on Wednesday by *The Jerusalem Post*. The ministry said its legal department and pharmaceutical and food service divisions have already started to take steps to bar its sale.

The ads, placed by Ofr-Shelpharm Ltd, Super Medic Marketing, Springer and Magen Yazum and Marketing, claimed the hormone was a "revolutionary

cure for impotence" that "received ministry approval."

The pills, sold here for around 12 times the price in the US, were advertised as a "breakthrough for those suffering from erection difficulties due to physical or emotional causes" that "increases sexual activity and is an aphrodisiac."

They also claimed it was meant for "men with a low sperm count" and that it "fights the aging process."

Thousands of Internet sites belonging to entrepreneurs around the world promote DHEA as "treatment" for patients with AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis and other serious diseases - and also say it will "make you look 13 to 20 years younger."

Doctors say none of these claims has been corroborated in serious clinical trials.

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# Yeltsin fires Chubais over payment scandal

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin formally dismissed Anatoly Chubais as Russia's finance minister yesterday, a mostly symbolic move to appease the opposition and end a political scandal plaguing the government.

Chubais, the government's top economic policymaker, will retain his much more influential post as a deputy prime minister.

Yeltsin also named parliamentary budget committee chief Mikhail Zadornov as the new finance minister, the presidential press service said.

Critics charge that \$90,000 advances paid to Chubais and other senior officials for helping on a yet-to-be-written book were bribes. Chubais and the others deny any wrongdoing over the advances from a publisher affiliated with a top bank that won recent privatization auctions of state property.

The Communist opposition has called for Chubais' dismissal from all posts, but Yeltsin — who fired three other officials in the scandal — has insisted on retaining the man he considers essential to Russia's reform efforts.

To try to end the crisis, the Kremlin devised a plan under which Chubais and other deputy prime ministers were to give up their ministerial portfolios but

keep their senior posts as deputy premiers.

In line with the decision, Yeltsin also stripped First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov of his portfolio as fuel and energy minister on yesterday. The president appointed deputy fuel and energy minister Sergei Kiriyenko in his place.

Together, Chubais and Nemtsov have been the prime movers behind efforts to reform the Russian economy.

Yeltsin also named Tatyana Mitina, his campaign adviser during last summer's election, as deputy head of presidential administration. She will replace Alexander Kazakov, who was fired over the scandal.

The move appeared to break the deadlock over next year's budget, which is to be debated today by parliament's lower house, the State Duma. Earlier, the majority Communists and other hard-liners demanded Chubais' ouster, as a condition for budget passage.

They agreed to drop the linkage, but Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov left the government hanging Thursday, saying his faction would vote against the 1998 budget. He said more work was needed on the budget given Zadornov's appointment and continuing changes in tax laws, the

ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Without Communist support, the budget is unlikely to win the votes needed for passage. The rejection of the budget, a key element of the government's economic recovery program, would be a serious blow to the Kremlin.

Zadornov, 34, accepted Yeltsin's offer and quit the liberal opposition Yabloko party. His decision brought praise from some, who said Zadornov would serve as an independent-minded counterbalance to Chubais, and condemnations from former party colleagues.

"I think he may become a very strong minister," said the Communist Duma speaker, Gennady Seleznyov. "He is an expert in [finance] issues, which he has proven by his work as chairman of the budget affairs committee." But Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinsky noted that "Chubais stays in place, and so I don't see a possibility for the new finance minister to positively influence the situation in the country." Zadornov told reporters he would like to see the Duma and government push ahead with key measures such as tax reform, and the handling of government payments through the treasury instead of commercial banks. But he declined to provide any details of

his plans.

"I wouldn't decide to join the government if I didn't think that I can change something, although I realize that it's going to be very difficult," Zadornov said.

Yesterday's changes were not likely to end the book scandal. Although the Duma has backed down from its threat to block the budget and has little power over Yeltsin's appointments, Seleznyov said Chubais should lose all his posts.

Communists and other hard-line deputies approved a non-binding resolution Wednesday calling for Chubais' removal.

Yesterday, a meeting of hard-line legislative leaders vowed to continue to fight Yeltsin.

"The issue is not just Chubais, but the need to radically change the country's social and economic course," their draft statement said, according to the Interfax news agency.

Other government changes also are expected if all deputy premiers are to give up their ministerial jobs. Those potentially affected include Yakov Urinson, who also is economics minister; Anatoly Kulikov, who combines his post with that of interior minister; Oleg Syushev, who also is welfare minister; and Viktor Khlysum, who in turn also serves as agriculture minister.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth proceeds on a walkabout close to the gates of Downing Street yesterday, followed by Prime Minister Tony Blair. (AP)

## Philip, Elizabeth retrace steps down the aisle

LONDON (AP)— In the splendor of Westminster Abbey where they married 50 years ago, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip retraced their steps down the aisle yesterday for a service of thanksgiving before the biggest gathering of royalty since her coronation and hundreds of commoners symbolic of the New Britain.

As he has throughout their long and resilient marriage, the 76-year-old Duke of Edinburgh walked several steps behind his wife until they neared the front of the abbey, where English kings and queens have been crowned, married or buried for 900 years.

For many of those in the abbey, and those watching the live television broadcast, there was a poignant moment when Prince William and Prince Harry preceded their grandparents down the aisle, accompanied by their father, Prince Charles.

Princess Diana, whose death in a Paris car crash sparked an unprecedented outpouring of public grief, was not forgotten in prayers at the service.

"We particularly remember with gratitude the life of Diana, Princess of Wales," intoned the Rev. Kathleen Richardson, moderator of the Free Church Federal Council.

At an afternoon "people's banquet" attended by 350 people from all walks of life, the queen thanked people throughout the world for giving the family strength "during the sad days after Diana's death."

After the royal family failed to immediately acknowledge the public's response to Diana's death, the queen said there were lessons to be learned — and yesterday she pledged to heed public opinion and adapt the monarchy for the future.

While prime ministers are judged at the ballot box, she said, it is more difficult for the royal family to read the public's message. "Obscured as it can be by deference, rhetoric or the conflicting currents of public opinion."

"But read it we must," the queen said. "I have done my best, with Prince Philip's constant love and help, to interpret it correctly through the years of our marriage and of my reign as your queen. And we shall, as a family, together try to do so in the future."

The prime minister also spoke of "the terrible test" that the royal family faced after Diana's death.

"I know too, contrary to some of the hurtful things that were said at the time, how moved you were by the outpouring of grief which followed as, in the security and sanctity of your own home, you sought as a family to help the boys," Blair said.

In contrast to the massive crowd outside Westminster Abbey for Diana's funeral and the more than

100,000 who jammed the streets after the queen's wedding on November 20, 1947, yesterday's crowd numbered in the mere thousands.

Several thousand more lined the route from the prime minister's residence to the nearby Banqueting House, where the queen sat at a round table with a jockey, a policeman and the head of the maintenance team at an auto factory.

Many Britons were perhaps put off by heavy rain, which stopped shortly before the queen arrived, though it also rained on her wedding day.

For the 71-year-old queen and the duke, the Westminster Abbey service couldn't help but bring back memories of the wedding, which gave Britons hope during a period of grim austerity following World War II. In those days of rationing, even the queen had to find 300 clothing ration coupons for her silk designer dress.

Yesterday, the choir and congregation sang one of the queen's favorite hymns "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven," and an arrangement of the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd," both of which were part of their wedding.

The royal contingent in the church — the biggest gathering of its kind since Elizabeth's coronation in 1953 — included seven kings, 10 queens, a grand duke, 26 princes and 27 princesses.

By EDITH M. LEDERER

## Iowans seek prayers after birth of septuplets

By JORDAN LITE

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The seven little McCaugheys were reported doing well Thursday morning — astonishing doctors who say the day-old septuplets' size and condition is "virtually unheard-of." The babies born Wednesday to Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey — four boys and three girls — are only the second set of septuplets ever born alive and if they live, would be the first ever to survive.

"The size of the babies is wonderful. Each weighs in a normal range for babies this age, which is virtually unheard of" in a multiple pregnancy, Dr. Paula Mahone, who helped deliver them, said on NBC's Today show. The babies all did well overnight, she said.

Earlier, she had said the babies were "so well-grown, so well-developed, it just strikes me as a miracle." The babies' deeply religious family — who had rejected suggestions to abort some of the

fetuses to give the others a better chance — rejoiced.

"I would ask that all believers across the world join us in praying for Bobbi and for the babies that their health will continue and only improve," the babies' grandfather, Bob Hepworth, said.

The children were in serious condition yesterday — considered normal for a multiple birth — in the neonatal intensive care unit of Blank Children's Hospital. Joel Steven, the last baby to arrive, was listed as critical for several hours before his condition was upgraded. All were placed on ventilators to aid their breathing.

Hospital officials said yesterday that their mother was resting comfortably. The focus now is on her recovery and the babies' continued health, Mahone said.

"We want to make sure they breathe on their own eventually, that they're eating well. We're monitoring for bleeding into the brain, and also watching their digestive system," she said.

Hepworth and his wife, Peggy, also on Today, said they were still numb yesterday. Peggy Hepworth described their son-in-law coming out of the delivery room and giving a thumbs-up sign, at which point the family's pastor began leading a waiting room full of family and friends in prayer and song.

"We are very grateful to the Lord for the way he has provided for us," said Hepworth, noting how the family has been offered everything from free diapers to a new home. "These babies are going to have a lot of needs and we just stand back amazed at how all these needs are being met."

The pregnancy had long been known in the McCaughey family's tiny hometown of Carlisle, a bedroom community 15 kilometers outside Des Moines. But friends and neighbors there kept the secret from the outside world for months.

Once news began trickling out, the 29-year-old seamstress and her

27-year-old husband, a billing clerk at an auto dealer, found themselves the center of worldwide attention.

Kenneth Robert, the firstborn, is Hepworth's namesake. Doctors nicknamed him Hercules because he held his siblings in a pyramid formation in the womb, said Mahone.

Following Kenneth Robert were Alexis May, Natalie Sue, Kelsey Ann, Brandon James, Nathaniel Roy, and lastly, Joel Steven, all born about a minute apart.

Doctors could not determine whether any of the infants were identical.

McCaughey, who had been on a fertility drug, was in her 31st week of pregnancy, at least three weeks beyond the point doctors consider viable for fetuses. A typical pregnancy lasts 40 weeks.

The only other known septuplets were born alive in September in Saudi Arabia. Six of them died, according to hospital officials there.

## Pakistan cabinet to impeach president

By KATHY GANNON

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's cabinet decided to move a resolution in Parliament yesterday to impeach Pakistan's President Farooq Leghari, cabinet sources said.

The cabinet decision caps a week of political turmoil that has seen the prime minister indicted on contempt charges and legislation struck down by a tenacious chief justice.

The political wrangling has sent the stock market plunging and threatened a massive exodus of foreign capital out of the country.

The cabinet went into emergency meetings earlier yesterday, after Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah struck down an amendment to the Contempt of Court Law that would have given Sharif the right of appeal, should he be convicted of contempt.

The cabinet decided to impeach Leghari after he delayed signing the amendment, something he is required by law to do, but within 30 days. Sharif had asked him to attach his signature within 24 hours of receiving the amendment.

It's not clear what grounds Sharif's government can use to justify its move to impeach Leghari.

The resolution was expected to be introduced late yesterday, although 11th-hour negotiations were reportedly under way between the president, prime minister and army chief of staff.

Legal experts here say that it would take several days before a final vote to impeach the president

can be taken.

The president must be notified of the impeachment order and the motion debated in Parliament for several days, they said. If it goes ahead, this will be the first time in Pakistan's 50-year history that an elected Parliament has sought to impeach a president.

In the past week, Pakistan has been engulfed in political turmoil that began with Sharif's appearance in court on Monday to defend himself against contempt charges. He was formally indicted on Wednesday.

Parliament tried to protect Sharif and his co-accused by passing the amendment to the contempt law giving them the right to appeal.

Sharif, three newspaper editors and several legislators, were charged with contempt for publicly criticizing the judiciary, a crime in Pakistan.

If found guilty, Sharif could be removed from power barely 10 months after his Pakistan Moslem League won a landslide victory in general elections. He also could possibly face a jail term.

"I have never been in jail in my life... but in the interest of the country I am ready to do that," the English-language daily newspaper The News quoted Sharif as saying.

Meanwhile, tight security surrounded yesterday's Supreme Court hearing into the contempt charges against Sharif, after the chief justice said he feared for his life.

Shah did not elaborate on why he felt his life was in danger, but in a letter to Leghari he requested additional security.

## Unions converge on EU job summit

By RAF CASERT

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — Thousands of demonstrators converged on Luxembourg yesterday to prod European Union leaders to take action to ease unemployment.

The 15 government leaders have already tried to play down expectations in advance of their first jobs summit, warning that thenceforth will not produce targets for reducing Europe's 18 million unemployed.

"Don't expect any fireworks," said Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene.

## FUNDS

Workers and trade unions had other ideas. Europe's biggest trade union group hoped to rally 20,000 workers to the capital of Luxembourg, a rich, catholic nation of 365,000 where labor problems rarely cause a stir.

"Without clear pledges on jobs, there is a real danger that people will lose confidence in European integration," said Emilio Gabaglio, the secretary-general of European Trade Union Confederation.

Joblessness currently stands at 10.6 percent, or twice that of the United States and about three times that of Japan.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather

**KURT LEFÈVRE**

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He bequeathed his body to science.

For the bereaved family,  
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## FUNDS

By BEVERLEE BLACK

In spite of all our problems, being a Cable TV viewer has made me realize how far we've come in the last 50 years.

CNN shows five- and six-year-olds in India sewing soccer balls for sale in Britain, while Sky News screens street kids in South America hawking cigarettes at traffic lights.

Our problems are very different. Defining "culturally deprived" I leave to the philosophers. But the letters coming across my desk with requests for help tell heartbreaking stories of families without money to buy food, medicine, clothing, schoolbooks and the general commodities that a society such as ours expects everyone to have.

We are all called upon to balance our budget, and the minister of finance has a bigger job on his hands than most of us. He'll have requests from the Ministry of Defense, from the police, the Trade Ministry, Communications etc., for bigger budgets. Things being what they are, the weakest will go to the wall.

That's where you come in. The

## Ministering to those in need

more that welfare and social programs are cut, the more social workers will turn to charities like ours.

I know I have been saying that winter is on its way, and at the moment we're enjoying Indian summer, but any day now the rains will come and the requests for help will start pouring in.

Please don't let me/us/them down.

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\$1,000 in honor of all who played a role in the "speedy recovery" of Cecile Roth - Bernard and Cecile Roth, Fair Lawn, NJ.

\$100 in honor of our great-grandson Jared - Mr. and Mrs. Warner Joseph, Pounce Ridge, NY.

\$99 in memory of my father, Eliezer Park, from his daughter - Frances Goldberg, Fla.

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NIS 50 in loving memory of my husband, David, and my sister, Phyllis - Nancy Fourier, Haifa.

NIS 40 in honor of Benita and Harold's ruby wedding - Rochelle and Felix Seifer, Netanya.

NIS 20 in loving memory of my dear friends, Pina and Mennie, who passed away this year - Doreen Gelb, Tel Aviv.

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\$72 in memory of parents, Cantor and Mrs. David Glinskoy and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Kramer - Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Kramer, Wallingford, CT.

\$50 Virginia Horstman, Phoenix, AZ.

\$36 With joy and gratitude on Jesse Michel Papermaster's first birthday (10th Heshvan 5758) - love, Uncle Allen Kwass, Milwaukee, WI.

\$25 Ian Engelman, Skokie, IL.

\$15 R. Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.

\$6.360 Z. Hai in honor of our granddaughters Tali Alexandra and Hedi Miriit Ohry-Kossov - Dr. and Mrs. Edward Kossov, Geneva, Switzerland.

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\$100 Doug Parker, Springfield, GA. In memory of Mrs. Feiga Leibovici-Brauner of Amsterdam - S. Leibovici, London, England.

\$40 Wayne and Bonnie White, Franklin, TX.

\$25 Happy Hamukka to all - Renee and Sol Fromer, Jericho, NY.

\$18 In memory of the sixth yahrzeit of Schmel Baruch, Tel Aviv - Marilyn and Bill Stein, Gaithersburg, MD.

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# Islamic terrorists to Egypt: Abolish ties with Israel

By ALISTAIR LYON

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt's biggest Islamic militant group offered a conditional truce yesterday, several days after killing 58 tourists in Luxor.

colleagues and was ignored by the government, which refused to respond to what it sees as a terrorist group funded from abroad.

Mubarak has appointed Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri to head a special committee to review security at Egypt's spectacular tourist sites, which are visited by millions of foreigners every year.

German tourists left for Frankfurt yesterday, airport sources said. Many of the other dead, including Swiss, Japanese, British, Colombian and Bulgarian nationals, already have been flown home.

## Seeking new ways to suppress terrorism

CAIRO (Reuters) - It is time for President Hosni Mubarak's government to think of new ways to tackle its Moslem militant enemies, who massacred 58 foreign tourists at Luxor on Monday, analysts and diplomats said.

Rashwan, an analyst at the Ahran Center for Strategic Studies. Egypt's largest militant organization, al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group), claimed responsibility for the attack. It has targeted tourists in the past as a way to damage Egypt's tourism industry, which brings in about \$3 billion a year.

### ANALYSIS

By MORIA ELTAHWAY

the government on the run, so let's press it," said a Western diplomat. Rashwan said he believes the massacre was the act of a desperate Gama'a splinter group cornered between a state it hates and a leadership it perceives as betraying them.

spirit of martyrdom. They feel besieged by leaders they feel let them down by announcing a truce with a regime they consider to be infidel and besieged by the tough security cordon around them.

militants fighting for a purist Islamic state took up arms in 1992. Analysts said Mubarak should consider allowing an outlet for moderate Islamists, such as the outlawed but influential Moslem Brotherhood, which says it rejects violence.

## Congress Party threatens to leave Indian gov't

NEW DELHI (AP) - India's powerful Congress Party said yesterday it could not support a governing coalition that includes a partner accused of supporting the rebel group believed responsible for assassinating former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The "us or them" ultimatum from Congress could mean the collapse of the 14-party coalition, paving the way for new elections.

The threat came in the form of a resolution passed by Congress members of parliament after the government presented a report by a judge who investigated the 1991 Gandhi assassination. The lawmakers said they would withdraw support if the accused party is not ousted from the government.

Mrutyunjaya Nayak, secretary of Congress's legislative committee, said the government would be given "some time" to respond. He would not be more specific.



**Blocking progress**  
Hundreds of dairy farmers block railroad tracks in northern Italy yesterday to protest multi-million-dollar EU fines. Italian milk producers have been assessed about \$215 million in fines by the EU for exceeding national ceilings on milk production. (AP)

## At Argentine-bombing hearing Ex-police chief denies knowledge of officer's involvement

By STEPHEN BROWN  
BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - A former Argentine police chief yesterday denied knowledge of a top officer's alleged involvement in the 1994 bomb attack on a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires that killed 86 people.

Pedro Klodczyk, former head of Argentina's largest force, the Buenos Aires Province police, was summoned to a hearing in Congress to testify about an inspector suspected of being paid \$2.5 million for providing support for the attack.

but said he would "assume responsibility" for the failings of the 47,000-member force he once headed, which has a fearsome reputation for corruption and violence.

The congressional committee wants to ascertain how deeply involved in the AMIA bombing Ribelli was. It recently made public new evidence that Ribelli's father, a railway pensioner in his 90s, shared \$2.5m. among his five children.

Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, which killed 29 people. Not a single person is now being held for that attack.

Ribelli has written an open letter declaring his innocence and saying those responsible for the bomb "deserve the death penalty." His lawyer Gonzalo Oliver Tezanos said yesterday his client had "never been to Libya" and the \$2.5m. came from his father's "hard work, salary and business dealings."

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## Notes from a rusty heartstring

The British royals have been advising us all on the secrets of a happy marriage.

into the night. Yesterday morning, a small knot of loyalists turned out to see the arrivals at the church service.

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

No - there's no punch line, this is serious. Prince Phillip, the duke of Edinburgh, said he could not resist the temptation to give such advice as he completed 50 years as Britain's first gentleman.

untold royal scandal of coldness, infidelity, the victory of duty over personal happiness. It is the last taboo - and maybe it should be.

### Gray area

People in royal life, he said, have to accept certain constraints and "accommodate to that gray area of existence between the official and what is left of private life... It has been a challenge for us, but I believe we have achieved a sensible division of labor and a good balance between our individual and joint interests."

### Going, going

When dashing young Philip married shy young Elizabeth in 1947, only little slivers of the last great empire had been shed.

### Silence is golden

After the "Diana events" of September, the country still is not in the mood for royal carriage processions and wild celebrations

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## Government by crisis

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is running out of excuses, silver linings, and explanations. His proposal to poll the Likud Party membership on whether to restore the just-cancelled primaries amounts to a 180-degree reversal. The only possible defense of the whole episode is that of the legendary New York mayor Fiorello La Guardia, who once declared, "When I make a mistake, it's a beauty!"

Could it be that Netanyahu, the master politician, did not realize that if the Likud stripped its 200,000 members of the power to choose their Knesset candidates, the party would shrink like a punctured balloon to its pre-primaries state? Perhaps Netanyahu did not initiate the stampede in the Likud central committee that trampled the primary system to dust, but as party leader he had the ability and responsibility to steer the stampede away from the cliff.

He could have endorsed a compromise worked out by ministers Michael Eitan and Tzahi Hanegbi during the convention. Or he could have bucked the issue to the membership, as he did yesterday.

Instead he was left, like in the Mashaal fiasco, ordering an execution by poison and, days later, providing the antidote. The problem is, of course, that botched decisions are not completely reversible. Just as the Mashaal Affair had a negative diplomatic ripple effect that can be patched but not erased, the on-again off-again primaries episode has added to the ranks of those who have lost confidence in Netanyahu's ability to govern.

As with the Bar-On Affair and the Mashaal fiasco, Netanyahu has succeeded in defusing the immediate crisis by appointing a committee and promising to learn lessons. The problem is, of course, with each crisis more of the cabinet, the Knesset, and the people come to believe that Netanyahu is dooming the nation to government by damage control. Each crisis is weathered, in that the government survives, but the effect is cumulative and the sense of downward spiral is accentuated.

What is strange about this process of deteriorating support is that so little of it seems to relate to policy, though policy matters have been sucked into the same vortex. There is nothing new about griping and infighting within the ruling party or coalition — such behavior is stan-

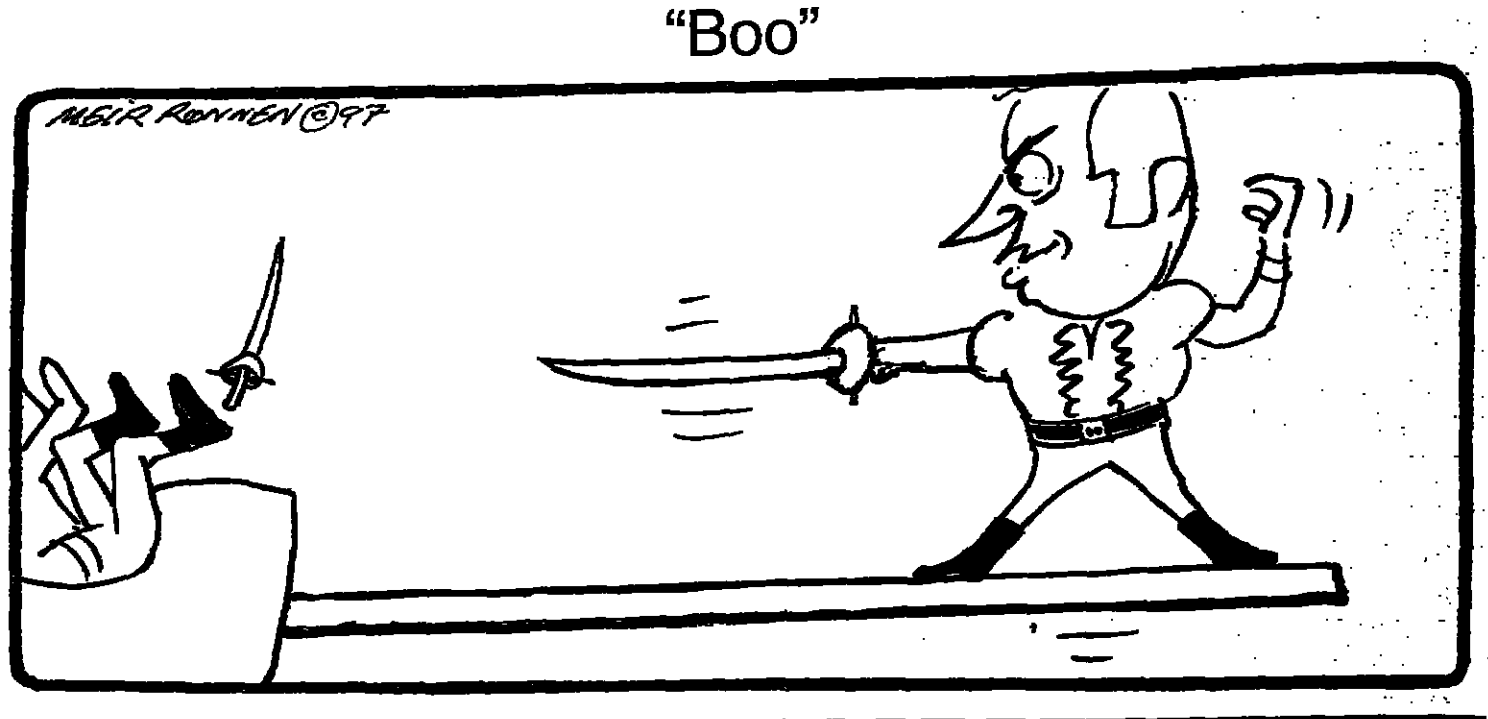
dard in Israeli governments. There is no precedent, however, for minister after minister to come out against their leader on matters of personal integrity.

First Ze'ev Begin, then Dan Meridor, and now Limor Livnat seems to have come to the conclusion that Netanyahu cannot be trusted to lead the party or the nation. Though Begin and Livnat have been to the right of Netanyahu on the peace process, only a small part of their alienation — and almost none of Meridor's — can be explained by policy differences. Rather, it is as if Netanyahu has been preparing to write his own book, *How to Lose Friends and Alienate People*. Begin and Meridor were never Netanyahu allies, but Livnat and Science Minister Michael Eitan were, and could have been expected to remain not only loyal Netanyahu lieutenants but strong supporters. Instead, disappointment with Netanyahu stretches across the government, including ministers who believe that in policy terms he is on the right track.

But if policies are not the problem, then what is it about Netanyahu's personality that seems to run through bonds of confidence and loyalty like a bulldozer? One need not go any further than this latest blunder for an illustration of the two key elements: trying to play both sides of an issue and an insatiable appetite for power. Before and during the Likud convention, Netanyahu alternatively led different players to believe that he was neutral, for and against the activists' bid to cancel the primaries. In the end, he was properly held responsible for the results, which were taken as a bid to eliminate the possibility of unseating him in internal elections and rendering his ministers more obedient by stripping away their constituency base.

The only thing Netanyahu forgot is that his job is not to take over his own party; his job is to govern. The sinking suspicion that this episode has spread is that Netanyahu is not capable of switching from power-accumulation mode to governing mode.

While his ministers were busy revolting back home this week, Netanyahu joked with Arnold Schwarzenegger in Los Angeles about acting like him when he got back. The question is whether the Netanyahu administration is more akin to another Hollywood production, *Titanic*.



## Unfinished business

At 8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27, 1991, President George Bush precipitously announced a unilateral cease-fire in the fighting in Iraq.

Operation Desert Storm involved a buildup of armed forces in the area that had taken five months to organize and involved 500,000 ground troops and the most powerful air and sea armada the world had ever seen. For almost five weeks, the allied forces, under American leadership, had been hitting Iraqi targets from the air, using the latest in American technology. Only then was the order given to Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf's ground forces to advance into Iraqi territory. Now, after four days of allied advances that had essentially been a walkover, the president had given the order to halt the advance.

Within weeks, the allied forces withdrew to their home bases and Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was home safe from the crisis he had initiated with the takeover of Kuwait. Bush had made a major mistake that was to haunt the world in the years to come.

By now Bush, as well as the other allied leaders at the time, have been replaced, but Saddam is still in Baghdad, endangering the world with his attempts to hide his program for the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction from the UN inspection teams.

Saddam had been misled by signs of support that had come from Washington during his ill-fated aggression against Iran. The

supply of US intelligence data, generous US loan guarantees, sales of advanced military equipment by France and Britain, and extensive industrial and technological assistance for his nuclear and ballistic missile program by Western European countries had inspired him with confidence that an annexation of Kuwait would not result in an active response from the US or the other NATO powers. If he had any lingering doubts,

launching his aggression against Kuwait, it would have been far more difficult, if not impossible, to counter his move.

WESTERN capability to obtain accurate intelligence on what was going on in Iraq, or what Saddam's plans were, turned out to be far from adequate. The period leading up to the Gulf crisis was replete with inaccurate appraisals in Washington of Iraqi

Iraqi ground forces, specifically the elite Republican Guard. In effect, Saddam was left able to continue to rule and cause further trouble for the world.

Since then, over six years of work by UN inspection teams have succeeded in uncovering considerable Iraqi non-conventional weapons activity. But it has turned out to be a most difficult task, especially given Iraqi obstruction and duplicity. It is clear that much still remains uncovered.

It is just at this point that Saddam decided to challenge the UN inspection teams by ordering the expulsion of their American members. He is probably counting on the fact that defense budget cuts since Operation Desert Storm have left the US with a considerably reduced military capability, and that President Bill Clinton will not show the same determination as Bush did.

It should be clear that submission to his demands will put an end to any expectation that a stop can be put to his development of non-conventional weapons. Saddam Hussein armed with non-conventional weapons — whether nuclear, chemical, or biological — will constitute an immense danger to the world. This is the challenge now facing Clinton. The unfinished business left behind by George Bush must now be finished.

Finally, the cease-fire was based on a greatly exaggerated evaluation of the damage inflicted on

### George Bush and the other allied leaders at the time have been replaced, but Saddam is still endangering the world with his attempts to obtain weapons of mass destruction

they were put to rest by the misleading messages transmitted to him by the US ambassador to Baghdad, April Glaspie.

After the IAF, in June 1981, had destroyed the nuclear reactor sold to Iraq by France, and thus aborted Saddam's nuclear weapons program, he launched a vast scheme for the production of weapons-grade enriched uranium in facilities dispersed throughout Iraq. We now know that at the time of the outbreak of hostilities, he was six months away from obtaining nuclear capability. Had he waited for six months before

intentions and capabilities. US military aircraft were unable to deal effectively with the Scud threat. Similarly, the expectation that the Patriot anti-aircraft missile would be able to intercept the Scuds in flight turned out to be groundless. The damage inflicted on the Iraqi facilities for the production of non-conventional weapons and ballistic missiles, as well as on the inventory of these weapons by aerial bombardment, was grossly overestimated.

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## Say no to Mubarak's advice

In its lead article on November 19, headlined "Triple Entente," *The Times* of London wrote, "Like it or not, and the Foreign Office does not like it much, the United States, Britain, and Israel are allies in the struggle to contain Saddam Hussein. All the evidence is that they are virtually alone."

And in *The New York Times*, an anonymous member of the State Department was quoted as reporting that "the Arabs are furious at the Americans' 'double standard' in starving the Iraqis to punish Saddam Hussein, while not doing enough to compel Israel to honor its commitments to the Palestinians."

Foreign Office staff in Washington and London are not overjoyed by the triple entente between Washington, London, and Jerusalem. They would like to extend the coalition and, if necessary, they would be willing to appease Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and other Arab states at the US's expense. But they have had no chance to do so.

Even Madeleine Albright's criticism of Israel at the Doha conference did not make Saudi Arabia and Bahrain reconsider their refusal to join the effort to block Saddam. This is because the Arab states' reluctance to join the anti-Saddam coalition is not connected to withdrawal from territories in Judea and Samaria, nor to Har Homa, but stems from inter-Arab considerations.

President George Bush, head of the great Desert Storm coalition in 1991, claimed in an interview with the BBC this week that Egypt and Syria would have dropped out of the coalition if the allied forces had carried on the pursuit of Saddam

and entered Baghdad. And he is right. France and Russia would have left the coalition too, without any "Israeli excuse." The Oslo Accords didn't exist then, and Saddam Hussein and Yevgeny Primakov's joint suggestion to Bush of a compromise in the form of a quid pro quo — Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait in exchange for a promise of Israeli withdrawal from the territories — had been rejected out of hand.

Primakov has not been losing any sleep over America's difficulties in mediation between Israel and the Palestinians. But his renewed involvement in the American-Iraqi

### Israel has to state clearly its view on the present Iraq crisis

dispute stems from Russia's economic interests in Iraq. Moscow is interested in the removal of sanctions that Saddam can pay off the huge debt that he owes it for all the arms that it sold him.

Above all, Yeltsin and Primakov are trying to use their suggested compromise as a means to realize the old Russian dream of partnership in influence in the Middle East. These considerations have nothing to do with Israel.

THE same goes for the Arab countries. Although their representatives in talks with the American administration bring up the Israeli excuse for not participating in the coalition, this is no more than a pretext.

inclined to make concessions to Russia on its supremacy in the region.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu didn't publicize the contents of the letter he received from Clinton about the Iraq crisis. But the partial release of his promise that the US will protect Israel in the event of an Iraqi attack is unsatisfactory. A promise from the president to allow and assist Israel to defend itself would have been preferable.

Clinton's promise was not the reason why Israel clarified its stand behind the US in the current crisis. Israel was not tempted to search for dialogue with Iraq now. Such a search could damage our relations with the Congress, whose help we need.

For the same reason, Egypt's advice that we stay aloof could not be accepted. We don't share the Egyptian's penchant for sitting on the fence. We haven't forgotten the lesson of the previous Egyptian mediation between us and Saddam.

Three months before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, President Hosni Mubarak mediated between Saddam and Shamir. Mubarak even achieved a mutual undertaking from both of them not to start a war against the other, in spite of Saddam's earlier threat to set half of Israel on fire. The Scuds showed what Saddam's promise is worth.

Israel's unambiguous stand beside the US gives us the right to demand from the US not to pay in Israeli currency for its attempt to draw the Arab states to its side.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

## POSTSCRIPTS

YOU CAN'T be cool in America if you're using outdated lingo. Here's the latest from the corporate and Silicon Valley jungles:

- Batmobiling — putting up emotional shields, from the retracting armor that covers the batmobile, as in "she started talking marriage and he started batmobiling."
- Beeplepsy — afflicts those with vibrating pagers characterized by sudden spasms, goofy facial expressions and loss of speech.
- Betamaxted — when a technology is overtaken in the market by inferior or better marketed competition as in "Microsoft betamaxted Apple right out of the market."
- Blowing your buffer — losing your train of thought, Cohweb — a WWW site that never changes.
- Elvis year — the peak year of popularity, as in "1993 was Barney the dinosaur's elvis year."
- Generic — fast food joints, strip malls, sub-divisions, as in "we were so lost in generic that I couldn't remember what city it was."
- Going postal — totally stressed out and losing it, like postal employees who went on shooting rumpages.
- Intainment — annoying, but you can't stop watching; i.e. the O.J. Simpson trial.
- Meetspace — the physical world (as opposed to the virtual); also "carbon community" and "facetime."
- Percussive maintenance — the fine art of whacking a device to get it working.
- Prime dogging — in companies where everyone has a cubicle something happens and everyone pops up to look.
- Salmon day — swimming upstream all day to get screwed in the end.
- Siliwood — the coming convergence of movies, interactive TV and computers; also "hollywired."
- Square headed girlfriend/boyfriend — computer.
- Treeware — manuals and documentation.
- Unfriend — sexual relationship, as in "this is Dale, my...um...friend."
- World Wide Wait — WWW.
- Yuppie food coupons — \$20 bills from an ATM.

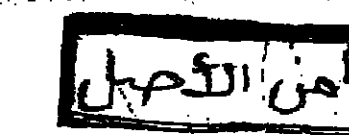
prepared implementation report. The committee adjourned as the British statement was "fraught with grave consequences."

Two Jews were hurt and seven injured when an Egged bus was ambushed near Abu Kabir. Arab sources reported that the ambush was a reprisal for the killing of four Arabs near Ra'anana by the Stern group. These Arabs were accused by the Stern Group of having led the authorities to their Ra'anana training base where five youths were killed by British forces a week earlier.

A Gallup Poll revealed that 65 per cent of the American voters favored Partition, 10 per cent opposed it, and 25 per cent held no opinion. A 26-year-old blonde, Betty Kermann, who came on an immigration certificate to Palestine was recognized as a former SS commandant at the Zittau Nazi concentration camp. She arrived here on a Polish passport in the name of Betty Kermann, a Jewish girl who had been murdered in 1945.

25 years ago: On November 21, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that feelings ran high in ultra-Orthodox communities over Rabbi Goren's ruling in the Langer *mamzerim* case.

President Sadat had sent personal messages to 35 heads of state alerting them to the dangers of a Middle East settlement. In New York the Anti-Defamation League reported a marked increase "in the scope of American anti-Jewish activities." Alexander Zvielli



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# Security remains the key

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Eighteen months after he was elected, Binyamin Netanyahu has lost his electoral base and the support of many of those who voted for him. In the Likud, the search is on for candidates to replace him, and in the Labor Party, Ehud Barak is viewed as the prime minister-in-waiting. In foreign capitals from Washington to Cairo, the expectations of a change in the Israeli leadership are also increasing. To put it mildly, Netanyahu and his policies have not succeeded in winning much support from the for-

mal aide during the Oslo process, recalled that Rabin "relied on the promises of [Yasser] Arafat and the PLO that they would do everything in their power to fight against terrorism." The failure of Oslo was the responsibility of Arafat and the PLO, and began long before Netanyahu was elected.

Even Singer, an architect of the process, admitted that "after the Oslo Agreement was signed, from the very first moment, Arafat decided not to fight against terrorism, in violation of the spirit and the letter

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ign ministries and heads of government in any of these countries, and most will be happy to see him go.

However, it would be a major mistake to conclude that even if this scenario is played out, and Barak or someone else is elected prime minister—and there are many major obstacles to this process—Israeli security policy would suddenly change. A change in leadership will not lead to an about-face, to a further expansion of the territory under Palestinian control, the independent operation of an airport in Gaza, or the opening of the special land corridor.

Whether led by Barak or one of the Likud candidates, a post-Netanyahu government will not mark a return to the hopeful naiveté of 1993, the early days of the peace process, and blind faith in a "New Middle East." The basic factors that led to defeat of Shimon Peres and the Labor/Meretx coalition have not changed; in fact their impact has increased.

Netanyahu's personality and performance may have been an overall failure, but the fears that led to his victory are more potent than ever. For the vast majority of Israelis, insecurity and terrorism remain the primary concerns. The waves of suicide bombings, the Palestinian Authority's revolving-door policy for Hamas terrorists, and Arafat's "green light" for terror have fundamentally altered the opinions of many of those who originally supported Yitzhak Rabin's decision to take risks for peace. After the euphoria of Oslo, the terrible toll of violence and hatred continued, and few of us remain untouched by the terrorism. Netanyahu was elected to correct the imbalance in the process, and if he loses the next election, his replacement will be expected to do the same.

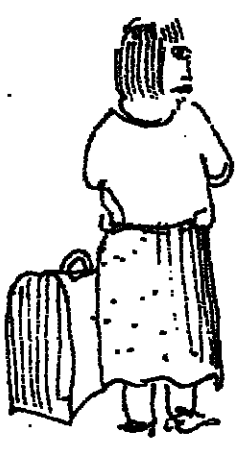
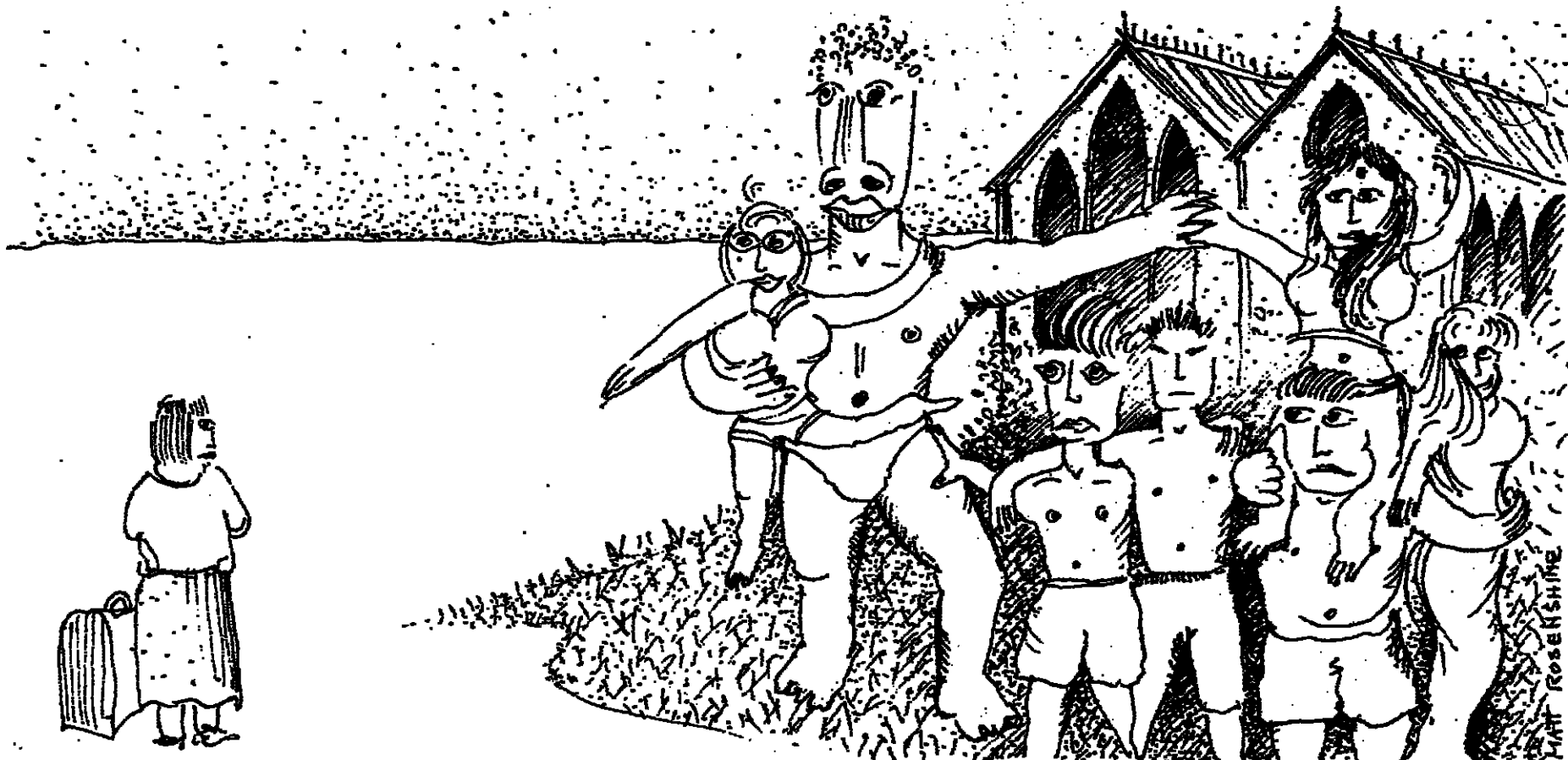
of the agreement, as well as clear promises to Rabin and Peres... The whole Oslo Agreement was based on Arafat's commitment to fight terrorism, but he decided not to cooperate." And, as Singer emphasized, as a result, "public support in Israel for the Oslo Agreement... dropped down dramatically, the Israeli citizens simply did not agree to become the victims of terrorist attacks." If Rabin were still alive, he would have reached the same conclusions. Barak's own views, like those of the majority of Israelis, are closer to Rabin's and Singer's than to the more idealistic dreams of Peres and Yossi Beilin.

If he becomes prime minister, Barak, like Netanyahu, will demand that the Palestinians fully honor their commitments before further Israeli redeployments or steps that would permit a Palestinian state. Furthermore, Barak or any other post-Netanyahu leader may head a minority government, in which the Knesset will continue to be controlled by a coalition of the Likud, the religious parties, and other members of the current coalition. Such split-ticket voting is very likely, precisely because of the fears of many voters regarding Labor Party's recent record on security issues. Thus, even if Barak would be willing to take major risks, the cabinet and Knesset would block him.

The Palestinians will not gain anything by waiting for developments in Israeli politics and the possible replacement of Netanyahu before they honor their commitments under Oslo. The longer Arafat and his advisers wait to start the long overdue war on terror, the more difficult it will be to convince Israelis that they are serious and that peace means more than continued terror and insecurity.

THE lack of faith in the current peace process goes far beyond the right-wing. In a recent analysis, Joel Singer, who served as Rabin's prin-

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# Free the Yale Five

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

Two years ago, an Orthodox magazine published an article by a young woman preparing to enter Yale University. She complained that her Orthodox high school had not adequately prepared her for "the coed dormitories, vociferous homosexuals, countless body piercings, and rainbow-colored hair" she had witnessed on a visit.

At the time, I thought to myself that the problem lay not with her school, but with her parents for sending her to Yale. (More than 20 years ago, the dean of one of the Yale residential colleges advised Orthodox parents against sending their daughters to Yale.) And indeed, the young woman herself seems to have had second thoughts. Upon arriving at Yale, she joined four other students seeking to be excused from the residency requirement for freshmen and sophomores on the grounds that life in Yale dorms is inconsistent with the code of conduct required of Orthodox Jews.

Yale's denial of that request was accompanied by a great deal of high-minded nonsense. Against the students' religious beliefs, the dean of the college huffed that Yale too has "its values and beliefs," and one of those is the inviolability of the residential college system.

Yale thus raised a rule of two years standing to the level of eternal verity. Two of the Yale Five are local residents. Four of their older siblings attended Yale while living at home, one of them commencing her studies after the rule went into effect.

Thirty years ago, when the parents of these students went to college, a woman in a man's room with the door closed was grounds for expulsion. Today, Yale posts signs telling students where condoms are dispensed and instructs incoming freshmen in the etiquette of getting rid of your roommate when you wish to entertain visitors of the opposite sex.

Once, Yale acted in loco parentis. Today it boasts of having no parietal rules, and deems subjecting students to a totally unsupervised environment an indispensable part of their education.

Crucial as living in the dorms is for the "Yale experience," however, the parents of the Five were told that if they would just fork over the \$7,000 dorm fee, their children could live wherever they want with no questions asked.

Yale argues the importance of exposure to those from diverse backgrounds. Yet those encounters are far likelier to occur in the classroom and in the dining rooms, where students may sit around for hours, than in the bedrooms. But Yale does not tell Orthodox students, "You must eat in non-kosher dining halls, and if you don't like it, you can go elsewhere." In fact, Yale generously subsidizes the kosher kitchen. Everybody knows about

Mormons suggests that they are more open to diversity than Yale.

Avuncular, winking Yale is not being neutral; it is weighing in on the side of promiscuity. Students who are not "hooking-up" receive countless messages that they are out of it. Indeed, if Yale's real goal were the promotion of diversity, it would allow the Five to live off-campus and thereby convey a powerful message that there are those who stand absolutely apart from the prevailing sexual morality.

Much of what passes for diversity in the elite universities today is its Orwellian opposite—a form of thought control. In a truly chilling piece in *Commentary*, "A Ladies Room of One's Own," Williams' student Wendy Wasserstein details the New Canon.

Anyone who mentions the biblical prohibition against homosexuality can expect to receive a letter from the administration warning him against homophobia; but the gay society can deface a Jewish center with graffiti denouncing "Moses and his homophobic laws." Conservative students who become the focus of campus-wide harassment will be told by the dean that they'll have to deal with radical feminists in the real world too. But those accused of homophobia, racism, or sexism will feel the full disciplinary wrath of the college and be sent for sensitivity training—our version of the

Gulag or Red Guard reeducation.

A young woman who cannot make peace with sharing a toilet and shower with strange males will find herself surrounded by peers encouraging her to "become comfortable with her body." Further resistance may result in a friendly dorm adviser suggesting the college counselling service, the better to learn to think proper thoughts.

Yale's dirty little secret in this case is that the Five would have fared much better if Yale's president, dean of students, and the counsel handling the case weren't Jewish. They have reacted with the horror of the assimilated suburbanites in Philip Roth's "Eli the Fanatic" to the appearance of a hassid in town.

When the dean asked the students—all children of successful professionals and worldly enough to get into Yale—"How do you expect Orthodox Jews to integrate into the real world?" she was really expressing her own fear that the presence of these fanatics might cause others to see her too as foreign, despite all the polish.

For a quarter century, Jews have marched in the vanguard of every movement for sexual liberation. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Yale Five for making clear the true Jewish teachings on sexual ethics.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

# Open-market politics

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

This is the new age of open-market politics. It is the result of the decline of loyalty to party labels, and the growing potency of personality. Parties and leaders are up for grabs.

Parties become the object of takeovers and spin-offs. Except for the formalities, the party has lost its primacy, if not its relevance. For example, Yaakov Neeman has been proposed to replace Binyamin Netanyahu as prime minister precisely because he has no party base, not in spite of it.

The political leader promises to be the entrepreneur who can catalyze floating blocks in the political marketplace into a winning coalition. The direct election of the prime minister was instituted in part because of a recognition of the growing importance of the personal factor. However, it was based on Israel's traditional guild model of politics. It was predicated on the assumption that the prime minister would be elevated through his party to a position of leadership.

But this is no longer the case. The prime minister might have no party at all, like Neeman. He might be a faction leader, capable of making deals with other centers of power in the fractured political arena.

Haim Ramon proved this in his successful bid for the top job in the Histadrut in 1994. Ramon was opposed by the Labor Party leadership. His organizational support was nil. In the open political market, he projected the right image in the media and made the right deals—with Meretz and Shas—and he won.

There are additional hurdles, of course, when it comes to unseating Netanyahu. The direct election law's numerical barriers—a majority of MKs for a vote of no-confidence in the prime minister—require general elections, by which special elections for prime minister, not for the Knesset—Dera serious. But they are not laborious.

Open-market politics, every-thing has a price. The price of umm

votes to unseat the prime minister is influenced by the rules of the direct election law. However, the paramount influence is the law of supply and demand.

The major barrier is the majority required for the vote of no-confidence. If this is overcome,

**Except for the formalities, the party has lost its primacy, if not its relevance**

then the price of the votes needed to reach the magic number of 80, required for elections only for the prime minister, declines precipitously. The major deterrent to a no-confidence vote is the dissolution of the Knesset. Eliminate the deterrent, and the supply side of the Knesset vote market changes radically.

THE other market forces that have to be taken into account are the Labor contender, Ehud Barak, and the incumbent prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu.

Barak, of course, wants elections, the sooner the better. If there are special elections for the prime minister, Labor would probably be prepared to agree in advance that the winner would form a national unity government. This would provide coalition partners with job insurance, eliminating the risks of the electoral market.

Netanyahu's position might be the political surprise of the year. He might opt for immediate elections as well, particularly if they are inevitable in any case. Netanyahu craves popularity. He wants to stand before the nation, as he stood before the Likud convention—hands on hips, lower lip protruding, eyes focused inward, as the crowd sings and shows its approval. He needs a renewed popular voice of confidence.

If the party is not hijacked from under him, he should have no trouble winning in new Likud primaries. When it comes to voting for the prime minister in party primaries, a candidate needs the vote contractors. For the most part, they are members of the party's central committee. They did the job for him the first time. For a price, they will do it again.

As for the general public, there probably hasn't been a major shift in basic attitudes. A Netanyahu-Barak contest would, in all likelihood, hang on the decision of the religious camp, subject in large part to the directions of the rabbinical leaders. Here, there is a serious question mark when it comes to Shas and the intentions of its rabbinical mentor, Ovadia Yosef.

In dealing with Shas and other imponderables, Netanyahu has the great advantage of being able to make things happen while the campaign is under way. He might make a dramatic move toward peace. He might bring the conversion issue to a head, forcing Labor to take a stand.

If there are new elections for prime minister, and Netanyahu wins, the night of the long knives will follow. He will settle scores within the Likud, and seize the unfettered control he craves. If he loses, he will be the man from nowhere, going home.

When David Ben-Gurion ended his political career, his choice of the Negev kibbutz of Sde Boker was foreordained. Menachem Begin's initial choice was a moshav in Sinai. After the peace with Egypt, this option was closed. Begin ended his days in Jerusalem.

Where will Netanyahu go, once his days as prime minister are at an end? No one will be surprised if he returns to America. He will treat the general public the way he treats his colleagues in the Likud. If they don't want him, he won't want anything to do with them, either.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

# Where to eat in Israel

EILAT

TANDOORI Indian Restaurant—The only restaurant in Israel where price SHAKES HANDS with QUALITY and quantity smiles. Live traditional Indian dancing daily. King's Wafel Lagoon Hotel. Tel./Fax: 07-633 878, 636 6674. Open noon-3:30 p.m.; 8 p.m.-midnight

HERZLIYA PITUAH

TANDOORI Indian Restaurant—Only restaurant where price SHAKES HANDS with QUALITY and quantity smiles. Buffet Lunch NIS 46 (children NIS 23). Open noon-3 p.m.; 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Mercazim Building, 32 Masat St. Tel. 09-954 6702, Tel./Fax: 954 6768

ATLANTIS FISH & SEA FOOD RESTAURANT—Three Course Business Lunch for only NIS 69 (incl. one glass of wine). Open daily noon-1 a.m. Mercazim Building, 32 Masat St. Tel. 09-956 8969.

JERUSALEM

ANGELO RISTORANTE ITALIANO—Frommer's 1997 Guide says, "The most superb pasta in the country." Also fresh fish & Roman specialties. Kosher Dairy. Call owners Angelo Di Segni / Lori Rosenkranz for reservations. 9 Horlanos. Tel. 02-623 6095.

BIRD OF PARADISE (Old City)—Fresh home made food - Dairy and vegetarian cuisine, mellow atmosphere in the heart of the Jewish Quarter, live music and poetry. Kosher 58 Chabad St. (above the Cardo) Tel. 02-626 4723.

ESHEL AVRAHAM AVINU—Gleat Kosher Lindehadrin. Delicious mbed grill, meats & fish prepared on the grill. Also superb shawarma, soups & salads. Open 11 a.m. to 1 a.m., including, Motza'el Shabbat & Hag. 9 Yirmiyahu St. Tel. 02-837 3884.

EUCALYPTUS—The taste of Israel from Biblical Days. Excellent meat, fish & vegetarian dishes enhanced by a masterful use of herbs and spices. Luncheon special. Evening entertainment. Rawe reviews. Kosher. 7 Horlanos St. Tel. 02-624 4331.

HECHAL SHLOMO—RESTAURANT/CATERING serving you the best, freshest, most delicious food in an exclusive environment. Functions for up to 150. Brit Milah, Bar Mitzvah, 7 Branches. 58 King George St. Gleat Kosher/meat Tel. 02-622 2312.

KOHINOOR Kosher Indian Restaurant—Kashrut supervision by Rabbi Yosef Pink. Buffet lunch NIS 47 (children NIS 24) Open 12-4 p.m.; 8 p.m.-midnight. Holiday Inn Hotel, The Crown Plaza. Tel. 02-658 8867, Tel./Fax: 02-653 6867.

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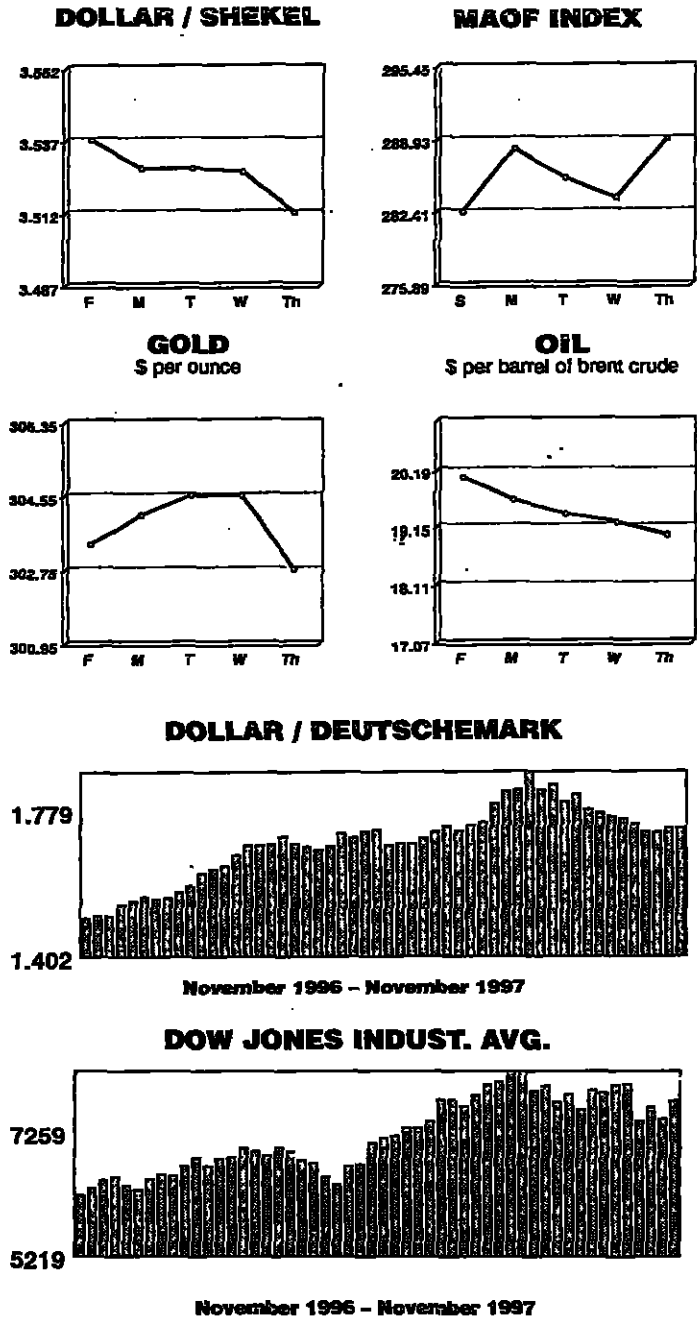
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## MARKETS

in brief



## C&W to double Bezeq holding

By DAVID HARRIS

British-based Cable and Wireless will double its interest in Bezeq to 20 percent by the end of November, a source close to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

"The deal will be completed within the next few days...in all probability before the end of November," said the source.

The news comes after months of negotiations which failed to produce agreement despite pressure for the sale from C&W. Cable's Israeli representative even threatened the possible sale of the company's

existing 10.02% holding in Bezeq.

"I cannot react with regard to the issue of Cable," Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni said last night. Livni, as the official with hands-on control over the privatization of state assets, has been heading the talks with Cable.

The final details of the deal were apparently worked out during Netanyahu's visit to London this week, a trip he made with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman.

"Things are looking better now that they have previously," a senior Cable employee said yesterday. This is the first sign

from the company that talks have progressed.

Cable's representative on the Bezeq board, Azriel Nevo, said he remains skeptical until he sees actual results.

"We've been in this position several times, where we're almost there, but I prefer not to invite the reception guests until the wedding takes place," said Nevo.

The Government Companies Authority intends to press ahead with a flotation of 7% to 10% of Bezeq shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange this quarter, confirmed Livni.

Over the last two weeks there had been

some doubt whether the flotation would take place, given the legal investigation into the pricing and advertising policy of Bezeq's subsidiary company Bezeq International.

But no decision has been made to delay the flotation, and Livni said plans are continuing to sell the shares, perhaps even this month.

If the Cable sale and the flotation take place, the government will reduce its holding in Bezeq to some 53% to 56%, with its stated aim to achieve a 52% holding by December 31 and thereafter continue selling shares.



**Businessman's break**  
A customer 'surfs the web' yesterday after Quick, the Belgian burger market leader, opened a new outlet in Rotterdam as part of its strategy to take over the Dutch burger market. In addition to food, patrons get fax, phone and Internet access. (Renter)

## ForSoft in \$30m. offering

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

ForSoft Ltd., a Herzliya-based software company, yesterday announced plans to raise \$30 million via a secondary offering of three million ordinary shares on the Nasdaq stock exchange in January.

ForSoft will use the money it raises from this to expand its marketing channels, said Danny Goldstein, chairman of parent company Formula Systems.

"ForSoft is a leading company in the Israeli market and now we are planning to break into new markets overseas," Goldman said.

The company's shares were selling at just above \$10 in early morning trading yesterday.

UBS Securities and BancAmerica Robertson Stephens will manage the offering.

ForSoft, which previously developed communications equipment under the name Iidan, develops software and provides billing and other services for large companies.

The company recently reported third-quarter profits of \$1.2m., up from \$43,000 in the same period last year. Revenues for the quarter totalled \$8.5m., up from \$4.8m. in the third quarter of 1996.

ForSoft's parent company, Formula Systems would recognize capital gains of approximately \$17m. from the issuance.

Formula Systems, Israel's largest software holding company, develops information technology, provides software, computer-based business solutions and offers consulting services via its subsidiaries and affiliates.

Subsidiary Crystal Systems Solutions markets a remedy to the millennium 2000 problem, which refers to a glitch in some computer systems that makes them incapable of recognizing dates beyond the year 1999.

## High-tech firms recruiting in Jordan

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Local computer companies recently started recruiting Jordanian and Palestinian software experts due to the growing shortage of skilled Israeli employees.

Malam Systems said yesterday that it formed a joint venture with the Jordanian investment concern Century Investment Group. The two companies plan to invest \$2 million in a software house that will be located in Amman. One of the new company's first projects will be developing solutions to the millennium problem, which occurs when computer systems are not capable of recognizing dates beyond the year 1999.

Karmiel-based Siemens Data Communication already is operating

several joint ventures that incorporate computer engineers from the Palestinian Authority and Jordan. These ventures involve a group of Palestinian engineers from a Ramallah-based concern and several groups of Jordanian companies.

The companies said they had to start looking for employees outside Israel because the software industry has a shortfall of 4,000-5,000 skilled workers. The Ministry of Trade and Industry predicts that by the year 2000 the number will grow to 7,000.

In a statement, Malam said that the Jordanian workers will go through an intensive training program for almost a month in Malam's center in Jerusalem. The first stage would involve training dozens of Jordanian software people and Malam hopes to employ about 200 workers soon.

Siemens said that the Palestinian group is working side-by-side with Israelis at the company's center and that its business plan calls for employing 100 Palestinians in Ramallah within three years.

Siemens CEC Sam Wideman said that company recently signed an agreement with a Jordanian software developer.

"We chose Jordan for two reasons: We suffer from a great shortfall and the salary of the Jordanians is only one third of that paid to Israeli workers. The Jordanians are very good workers who have acquired experience working for Microsoft and Apple."

Moshe Wolfson, Malam vice president of international sales, said that the high unemployment in the Jordanian software industry helps keep costs low.

"Several international companies are now showing interest in purchasing products from the new venture because the prices will be substantially lower," Wolfson said.

Wolfson added that the Jordanian workers were trained in the US and England and are fluent in English.

Wolfson also said that the political tensions between the two countries following the Mashal Affair had no impact on relations with Jordanian businessmen and that the company had no problem recruiting workers.

### IEC maneuvering to guard monopoly

Israel Electric Corporation's tender for constructing a privately operated power station could well be intended to thwart private producers and leave the monopoly with IEC, claimed members of the Israel Private Electricity Producers Association during their founding conference this week.

Among those participating in the conference were several domestic companies that have expressed an interest in bidding for the tender for the Ramat Hovav station. Participants included Oil Refineries, Ofer Brothers, Anro, Ashkogan, Barakat and Ormat.

One of the principal areas of concern is whether IEC will choose to buy its electricity for transmission from the privately run operation.

David Harris and news agencies

### Revenue from trade and service rises

Revenue from trade and service rose at a rate of 3.5 percent in the third quarter of this year, indicating an annual growth rate of 4%, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Jennifer Friedlin

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## Agriculture Ministry to fight VAT plan

By DAVID HARRIS

The Agriculture Ministry yesterday announced that it intends to fight a Customs and VAT Authority scheme to impose Value Added Tax on fruit and vegetables.

Customs and VAT director Moti Ayalon said earlier this week that he is proposing the payment of VAT for fruits and vegetables, in Eilat and on tourist purchases, all of which are presently exempt from the 17 percent tax. This, according to Ayalon, would yield NIS 1.75 billion in annual revenues.

Ayalon's proposal to charge VAT on agricultural produce is not the first such attempt. Agriculture Ministry Director-General Danny Krichman said, adding that like all previous efforts this one too will fail.

"Every time there's a budgetary difficulty they raise this unacceptable idea in the Customs [Authority]," Krichman said.

Customs and VAT Authority spokeswoman Idit Lev-Zeraha said yesterday that Ayalon's comments were not a statement of policy nor intention but merely a suggestion of what he would like to see implemented if economic conditions would allow.

Ayalon also said while he would like to see overall VAT cut in the long-term, he could not rule out the possibility that there would be a short-term need to increase VAT to 18%, placing an extra NIS 2b. into government coffers.

Immediately after the Knesset approves the 1998 state budget scheduled for December 31, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman says he plans to begin work on a wide-ranging reform of the tax system. This will principally revolve around lowering the tax burden but widening the tax base.

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Friday, November 21, 1997  
at's rise  
Wall Street

# Can he hold on to the ship?

### Though many Likud politicians see their party as a wrecked ship on a turbulent sea, not all are convinced that salvation lies in throwing Captain Netanyahu overboard, Sarah Honig reports

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's boat has been badly rocked before. But it now appears in the direst straits ever, "lurching and rolling alarmingly, more debilitated and assailable than at any time since its launching. Its plight is so great, that any sea breeze can send it into the briny deep," Likud MK Reuven Rivlin said this week, expressing a widely-held view in his party.

Netanyahu must not become complacent, Rivlin advises, just because his "opponents are divided and sound somewhat more subdued since the prime minister returned from his foreign journey to take them on. There may suddenly be a bit more discretion than valor in the Knesset faction, but it may be temporary. Netanyahu's ship is still tossing in the Likud tempest.

"Even if the waters calm down, the route ahead is still strewn with lethal mines like the budget vote and the conflicting pressures by coalition forces on the next redeployment phase," he continues. "These could wreck far more seaworthy craft than Netanyahu's, though he would no doubt gladly settle for the just the mortal perils he would have encountered in any case - before he was caught on the primaries' muddy shoal, banded all the Likud ministers against himself and thoroughly antagonized everyone else in his party's Knesset faction.

"Mere innuendo could still make his ship heave and pitch precariously. Thus it's now incumbent on Netanyahu to grip the helm and get the boat back on an even keel - or we all go down," Rivlin warns.

"That's Bibi's ultimate test, though we are all in the same boat. Those among us who think they can get another boat afloat or sabotage this one - just to get back at the captain and even to throw him ignominiously overboard - are tragically mistaken.

"If we let the boat get any more damaged than it already is, then someone else's vessel will ply these waters. Its captain will be Ehud Barak and his first mate will be Yossi Sarid, and they will foolishly and blindly set sail, without charts or navigation instruments, straight to Oslo."

Those who want to toss the captain into the angry sea, according to Rivlin, are Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and dissident

MKs Ze'ev Begin, Dan Meridor and David Re'em.

"In addition to this permanent opposition inside the Likud, which has already been in active mutiny for over a year, [Communications Minister] Limor Livnat and [Jerusalem Mayor Ehud] Olmert have become a problem for Bibi," Rivlin reckons.

SCIENCE MINISTER Michael Eitan insists he has no plans to rebel, though he has been one of Netanyahu's most outspoken critics since last week's party convention.

He says that Begin, Meridor and Re'em have made no bones about their "deep-set, unalterable animus to Netanyahu. He can't change that, but he must secure Livnat's and Olmert's at least ostensible loyalty. These two could upset the balance and give impetus to a process that would be irreversible."

"As things stand now, however, they have not crossed their Rubicon.

The proof is that they have not publicly said anything that can't be explained away."

Equally significant is the fact that, while Milo was roundly

self entangled in party disputes that he needs to stay away from. All this is thanks to a bunch of advisers who are pulling him their way and are trying to take over the party in his name and on his overladen back.

"They are hurting his personal cause in addition to the cause of democracy in the Likud. Netanyahu must do something about them - something very drastic and very soon."

Eitan has repeatedly called this week for the ouster of Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman. What will happen if Lieberman is not sacrificed forthwith?

Eitan says only that "if we feel that we are shoved into the corner, that we are denied our basic rights, that we are left with no room to maneuver, that democracy is being ruthlessly crushed, then we will all have nothing to lose. At this point there is still hope that the wrongs so flagrantly perpetrated at the convention can be put right."

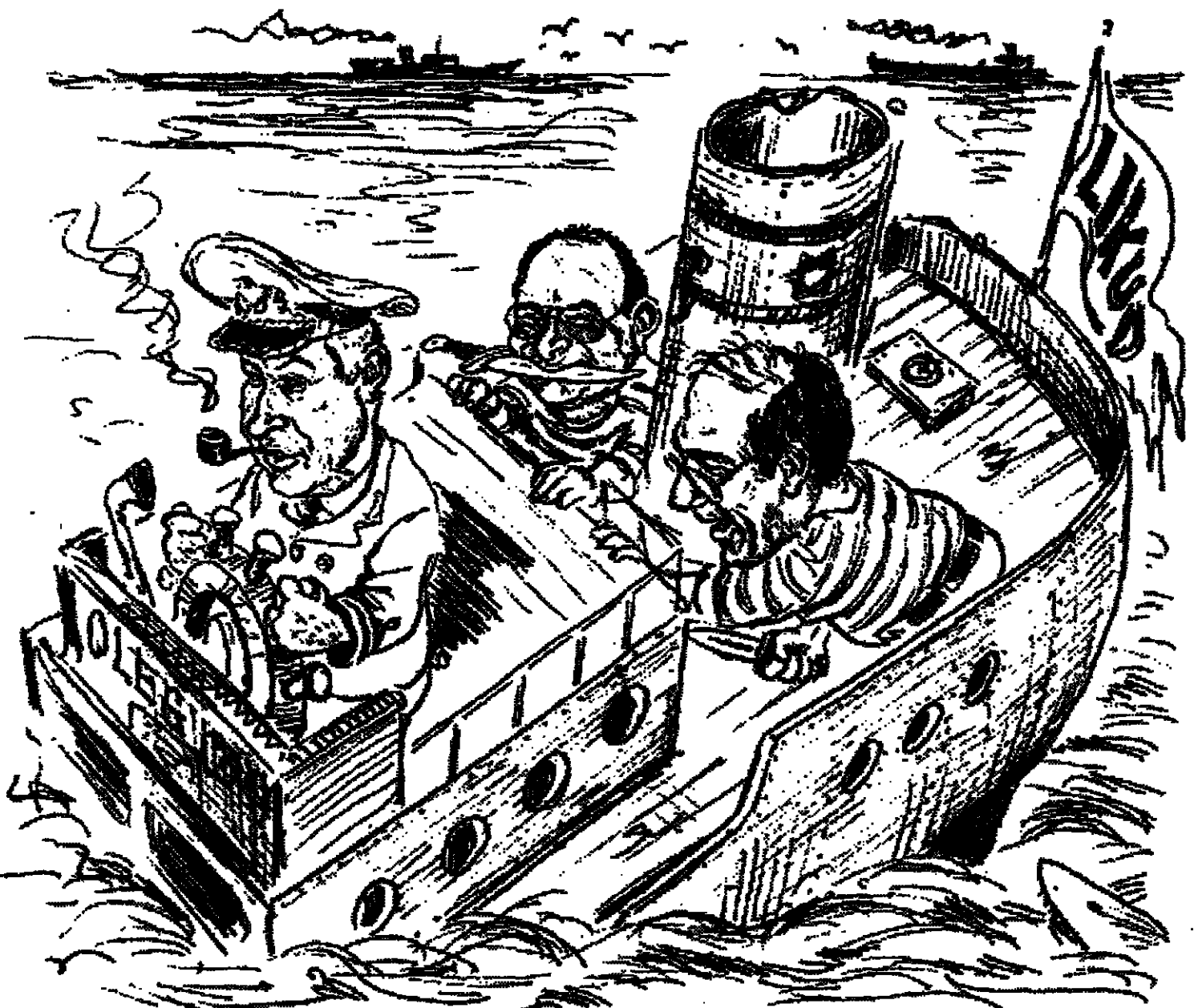
As long as "there is hope," Eitan - like a swiftly growing number of Likud politicians - vows "not to have anything to do with attempts to depose Netanyahu. Right now there is no justification for teaming up with people who want to exploit things for their own selfish purposes."

"Milo never concealed his ambitions to be prime minister. He doesn't shoulder the daily responsibility of this government. He is not even an MK, risks nothing and luxuriates in lounging on the sidelines, occasionally trying to grab the party for himself. He can forget about it."

Milo, however, refuses to back down from his prediction that he will effect "a great, dramatic and quick political change in this country."

If he gets the majority of the Likud's MKs to join him, he will be able to "cast Bibi out of the party. The name, party assets and campaign funding will belong to the bigger splinter."

"Without risking the fall of the government and the election of Barak as the new prime minister, we can free the Likud of the Netanyahu burden and make sure he cannot in future run for prime minister on the Likud ticket. A dreadful mistake of historic proportions was made when Netanyahu was elected to lead the Likud. We needn't keep paying



**"If we let the boat get any more damaged, its captain will be Ehud Barak and his first mate will be Yossi Sarid, and they will blindly set sail, without charts or navigation instruments, straight to Oslo"**

- Reuven Rivlin

blasted in the Likud, there was care not to cross Livnat or Olmert.

"They [Livnat and Olmert] are angry. We all are. Netanyahu has done some very good things as premier. Overall, his government should be saved because his policies are sound, but he gets him-

for this indefinitely," Milo asserts.

"Anyone who witnessed the disastrous Likud convention - replete with marked ballots and spying on Limor Livnat - can understand the extent of our revulsion. The Likud must either be changed and put under a new leadership, or it's sunk. No option at this point is rejected, so long as it leads to the break with Netanyahu. A change will come in any case, whether it's of our making or out of our control. If we don't rescue the Likud, it will just expire," Milo concludes.

The very fact that Milo unfurled his sails with so much fanfare, infuriated the unnamed central party figures, who, Milo asserts, were in league with him. Olmert is reportedly foremost among them, though party insiders say he is barely on speaking terms with his Tel Aviv counterpart.

Some around Olmert claim that

Milo doesn't really want to save the Likud, but replace it with a new centrist party that would attract odd bedfellows from as far as Left as Labor's Haim Ramon.

One source close to Olmert said that "Milo made sure that

that a conspiracy exposed to daylight is melted down and doomed. But this is no dark conspiracy and we are not dealing with cowards who will get cold feet if the plot is made public. Ours is a legitimate fight, and

Netanyahu, but who nevertheless remains the most loyal of the Likud ministers.

"Milo can only get a few more headlines to help his upcoming mayoral re-election campaign," Matza comments derisively.

"Milo may aspire to be the new Likud captain, but he has no sailors. I doubt that even Begin and Meridor are at his side for the long haul. More likely they will join any crew to fight Netanyahu. They will not accept Milo as their leader. Each of them thinks himself more deserving and this handful is already now trading recriminations.

"Other MKs will not opt for a split so long as there is no safe political alternative for them, and it is not likely for long as there is no viable chance to oust Netanyahu. That can't happen without a top political pivot and I can't see Yitzhak Mordechai or Arik Sharon volunteering to toe Milo's line," Matza says.

"There are only two actual choices before the Likud now. We either self-destruct and put Barak in power, or engage in the party's painful rehabilitation. After much steam has been vented, most of us realize that it's either Netanyahu or the Left. So does Milo. Perhaps he just doesn't care."

"Nor is Rivlin sure that Milo would shed many tears if the Likud ship were lost at sea, considering that he hasn't really been on its deck for years. Maybe he'll even gloat. I hope Netanyahu manages things so as not to give him that pleasure. But this means that Netanyahu will not only have to stabilize this rickety craft and steer it clear of torpedoes and reefs.

"From now on he'll be obliged to keep it spotless. No fluff can be swept between the planks, because this has become a glass-bottom boat. Everything is transparent now."

**"A dreadful mistake of historic proportions was made when Netanyahu was elected to lead the Likud. We needn't keep paying for this indefinitely"**

- Ronni Milo

any plan to steal the Likud from under Netanyahu would be foiled by his premature gabbling about it. Milo has limited the anti-Netanyahu option to [voting] no-confidence - and this is a risky and problematic course."

Milo agrees that "one can argue

## Mechanisms of mutiny

There are several ways in which the government and/or Netanyahu himself can be brought down:

- Failure to pass the budget: If even a tie occurs on the budget vote, it fails, and the government automatically falls. This could occur the day of the vote - or later than December 31 - or after a three-month extension. Both Knesset and prime ministerial elections would be called.
- Netanyahu could try to avert this by ignoring fiscal discipline and caving in to budget-breaking demands by his coalition partners.
- A no-confidence vote: If 61 MKs vote no-confidence in the government, then the Knesset dissolves and both Knesset and prime ministerial elections are held. On paper, the opposition could rustle up support from

among the Likud dissidents (Ze'ev Begin, Dan Meridor and David Re'em) and Geshet Netanyahu-bashers (Maxim Levy, David Magen and Yehuda Lankri). Laborites are counting on the Third Way or other Likud malcontents to reach the magic figure of nine coalition renegades.

For coalition members, voting against their own government is a politically dangerous move. They could be stigmatized as traitors for the remainder of their political careers, and, of course, may not even get reelected in the next elections.

- Impeachment of the prime minister: Eighty MKs can, in effect, impeach the prime minister

by voting to call elections for his office only, leaving the Knesset as is.

The number seems prohibitive, but the prevailing theory is that only 61 are really needed. This is because once the government is seen to be in danger, enough MKs will be found willing to vote against the prime minister so as to save their own seats for the remainder of the Knesset's term.

- National unity without Netanyahu: This theory presumes that most ministers would not vote themselves out of office. In this scenario, both Labor Party leader Ehud Barak and the Likud rebel leaders try to assure the ministers that if they vote for early elections

for prime minister, whoever wins - assuming the Likud does not field Netanyahu - would promise to form a national unity government.

The drawback is that there is no legal anchor to this guarantee, and the winner could always come up with a convincing ideological pretext for why he can't keep his promise. And even if such a promise is kept, in a national unity government, not all the ministers can keep their posts.

Besides, Netanyahu can right now threaten his ministers with a national unity government, keeping them in line lest any of their portfolios go to Labor. Moreover, if things ever get really unbearable for Netanyahu, he can

threaten to resign and force the Knesset into elections against its will.

- Splitting the Likud: The Likud Knesset faction - including Tsomet and Geshet - numbers 32 MKs. If 17 of them split off, they will constitute a majority and be entitled to the Likud-Tsomet-Geshet name, assets and campaign funds. Netanyahu will be left outside his party, and while he remains prime minister until the next elections, he will have no power base from which to run again.

The weakness of this option is that those who are not die-hard Netanyahu foes will have to be assured of a fair chance that the "new" Likud will be a viable political force, before committing themselves to the split. This is not possible without a charismatic vote-getter leading the rebellion.

- S.H.

## Trying to keep the faith

Likud elder statesmen are devastated by the turmoil in the party, but tell Michal Yudeiman they believe that the MKs can - and must - heal the rifts before the movement is destroyed

It is a grim scene, a meeting of Likud elder statesmen in a dimly lit room. They are gathered around a table, looking weary and stressed. The air is thick with tension and despair. They are discussing the state of the party, the recent convention, and the future of the Likud. Some are silent, while others speak in low, urgent tones. The room is filled with the sound of their voices, a mix of frustration and hope.

Michal Yudeiman, a prominent Likud figure, is the center of attention. He is speaking passionately, trying to rally the others. He believes that the party can still be saved, that the MKs can heal the rifts and move forward. He is surrounded by skeptics, but he remains steadfast in his belief.

see an obvious successor. First of all Ronni Milo is out of the question because he's not a Knesset member, as required by law. Meanwhile, with all this talk about replacing the leadership, we haven't heard a word about their political positions."

A split in the Likud would be a tragedy, Shilansky said "and I don't think anyone really wants that. It will weaken the party and lead to electoral defeat."

SHILANSKY IS angry that the rebels are fighting for their seats, not for an ideology.

"I cannot see how there can be a split in the Likud when the rebels don't have a common ideological basis," Shilansky said. "On the one hand there's Limor Livnat, who thinks the Oslo agreement is a disaster, and on the other you have Ronni Milo, who abstained in the vote on Oslo, which is tantamount to supporting it. Netanyahu is in the middle. Without him, they don't have the unifying link."

What he witnessed at the Likud convention hurt Shilansky, who was a delegate.

"I was used to heated arguments

at all hours of the night at Herut conventions. The debates were always on ideology," he said. "Last week I attended the convention from beginning to end and didn't hear one word on ideology."

He refuses to "stoop to the level of discussing the primaries. Erez Yisrael is the question, but instead the delegates were arguing about their personal interests and positions. That was painful. The MKs must understand they were elected not for their own convenience, but to fulfill an idea. They must give up personal ambitions for the

sake of the party's ideology and Erez Yisrael."

The fighting in the Likud can only bring Labor Party leader Ehud Barak to power, adds Shilansky, "because as difficult as the situation is, all this business about primaries is marginal. We must overcome this rift."

In sharp contrast to the restrained caution expressed by Likud elder statesmen like Yitzhak Shamir and Dov Shilansky, members of the party's activist ranks believe that replacing Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is only a matter of time.

"Don't let anyone mislead you, a central activist representing a large group said, 'the move to overthrow Bibi is irreversible.'"

More ministers and Knesset members than anyone from the outside imagines have crossed the Rubicon and are determined to act, another activist said. Commenting on Shamir's doubts regarding a putsch against the Likud leader, the activist said "Shamir is not only in full support of this move,

he's yearning to do it."

In the "hot" corridors of the Likud, the activists are holding their own. There was a general feeling that the party was heading for an historic moment. "One thing is clear," said one activist, "the problem is not Bibi as far as his legitimacy and modus operandi are concerned. We are just not prepared to remain behind him and desert our political careers."

The plan is to try to overthrow Netanyahu as soon as possible, and directly timed to last week's party convention, but it gained impetus when the prime minister's underhand maneuvering was exposed during the convention, a central activist explains.

"The idea is to get rid of Netanyahu without the Likud losing power, and that's what's delaying things. If all the rebels in the Likud unite, and the political considerations of the press are being ignored," he said.



# How Sadat won Israeli hearts

First the Egyptian leader launched the Yom Kippur War; four years later, he was greeted with open arms. Larry Derfner finds out why



Anwar Sadat waves as he departs from Ben Gurion Airport in 1977. The power of Sadat's appearance seemed to blot out many people's bitter memories. (Synphot)

How is it that 20 years ago, Israelis released an outpouring of love for a man who four years earlier, on Yom Kippur of all days, had launched a war in which some 2,600 IDF soldiers died?

As he rode from Ben-Gurion Airport into Jerusalem, Anwar Sadat waved to the Israelis who lined his route, cheered and shouted, "Salaam" and "Ahlan wa-sah'lan" ("Welcome").

This was an Arab leader who, before the war, had declared his readiness to sacrifice a million men, but that he would make Israel do the same. He had been the minister of defense, the warlord, of Israel's most hated Arab enemy, Gamal Abdel Nasser. He had also supported Hitler in World War II.

So what got into Israelis? People who remember Sadat's visit speak about the shock of the new, the mind-blowing quality of seeing an Arab leader on Israeli soil talking of peace. Israelis had to blink their eyes; this couldn't be real.

The power of Sadat's appearance seemed to blot out their bitter memories, at least temporarily. It intoxicated them.

"Sadat did what it takes: He came to Israel, came to the Knesset, and made a clear statement that he was ready to make peace with Israel, and that Egypt accepted Israel in the Middle East. These were the words Israelis had been waiting decades to hear," says Prof. Shimon Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Egypt from 1988 to 1990.

Micha Eshet, now a Jerusalem insurance agent, led a paratroop unit in a ferocious battle in Suez City which cost the lives of many of his soldiers. Beside fighting in the Yom Kippur War, he participated in the ensuing War of Attrition for six months. During Sadat's visit, Eshet says,

"I remembered my friends; it's natural. But this didn't detract from the greatness of that moment."

Both Eshet and Shamir say Sadat's surprise attack on Israel actually gained him respect in Israeli eyes, after Egypt had earned only Israeli scorn for its dismal showing in the Six Day War. "People had a grudging regard for him as someone who had put the screws to us," says Eshet. "Looking at it professionally, as an army officer, of course I respected him. Luckily for us, we turned the situation around, but you had to give him credit."

The war gave Sadat credibility with Israelis. "He said he was going to attack and he attacked, so when he said he wanted to make peace, people believed him," says Shamir, a professor of Middle Eastern history at Tel Aviv University.

"Don't forget that, even before the war ended, on October 16 [1973], he said he wanted the outcome to lead to peace negotiations with Israel."

Not all Israelis were intoxicated, however. Some were acutely suspicious. Then-IDF chief of staff Mordechai Gur warned that Sadat might be planning a sneak attack when his plane landed. "There were senior IDF officers who warned that when Sadat's plane landed, 40 Egyptian commandos were going to jump out and kill the Israeli leaders waiting to greet him. They wanted to mobilize the reserves, because they couldn't believe that Sadat was sincere, they thought it must be a deception," Shamir recalls.

MANY ISRAELI right-wingers were cold to the visit, pointing up Sadat's pro-Hitler past. A swastika-like design on Sadat's tie was seized upon as proof that the

Egyptian leader hadn't changed. But for the most part, Israelis were won over. It helped that the Israeli leader making peace with Sadat was Menachem Begin, the Right's trusted champion. By and large, conservative Israelis felt that if Begin could welcome Sadat, they could too, Shamir says.

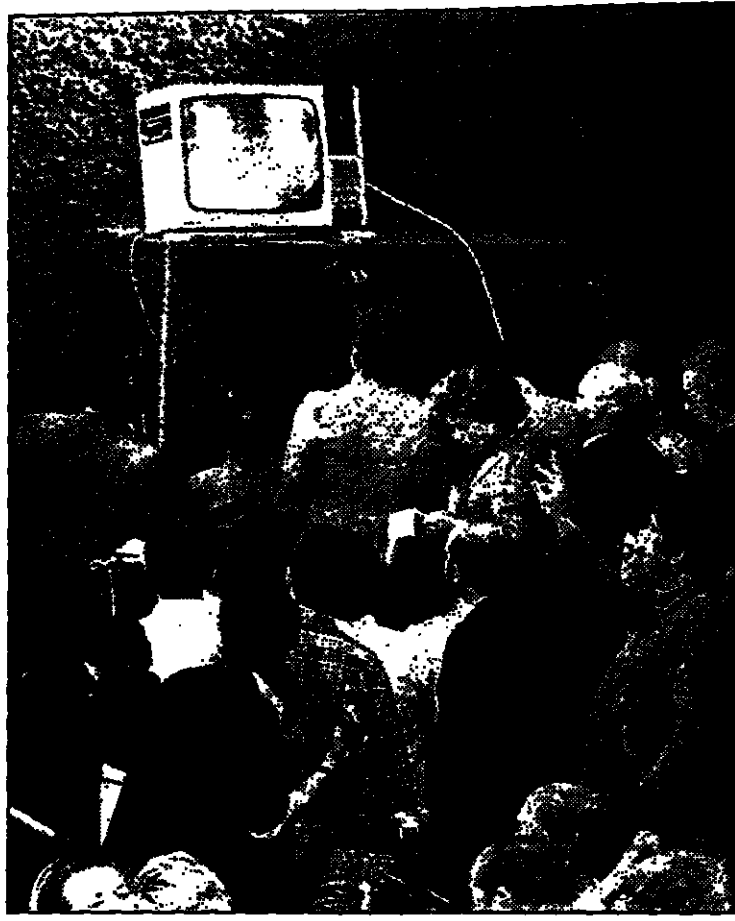
The visit worked a dramatic change on Israeli views regarding the Sinai, which Israel had captured in the Six Day War. "Right before the visit, a large majority was against giving it back, but right afterward a large majority was in favor," Shamir notes.

To Israelis, Sadat's visit signaled not only peace with Egypt, but with all of Israel's Arab neighbors. The thinking was that if the largest, strongest Arab enemy could be neutralized as a threat, then the lesser enemies would naturally follow.

To many, Israel's readiness to part with the Sinai also meant it had satisfied the key demand for Arab territorial concessions, and would not be pressed to give up the West Bank or Gaza to the Palestinians, Shamir adds. This turned out to be wishful thinking.

The only other face-to-face breakthrough that rivaled Sadat's visit was the Rabin-Arafat handshake on the White House lawn in 1993. Yet there was hardly the same consensus of good feeling here toward Arafat as there was for Sadat, even though Sadat's troops had killed far more Israelis than Arafat's had. What accounts for the difference?

"People feel differently about someone who sends terrorists to kill women and children than they do about the leader of a country who sends his soldiers to kill other soldiers. Terrorists are seen as having less honor," says author Yoram Kaniuk.



All eyes on Sadat as he talks to Golda Meir in Jerusalem, 1977 (Zoom 77)

"Sadat was seen as the head of a state, who - even if we didn't agree with him - was not a terrorist. Arafat, on the other hand, had always been depicted as a devil, as the symbol of terror," Eshet says. He added that Arafat's unesthetic physical appearance also worked to his disadvantage; in contrast, Sadat looked sharp, charismatic.

"Israelis appreciated [Sadat's] courage in coming to make peace," Kaniuk says. This former enemy had been transformed into a hero.

Could it happen again? If Syria's Hafez Assad were to come saying he was ready to make peace in return for the Golan Heights, would there be that same heady

atmosphere on the Israeli street? "It would be just the same, maybe even stronger," Kaniuk says. "Assad is seen as a dictator, but Israelis respect him for standing by his word, in honoring the cease-fire treaties he's signed."

However, since the coming of Sadat, King Hussein has visited Israel, as has Arafat, to speak with President Ezer Weizman in Caesarea last year. Israeli leaders have met abroad with many of their Arab counterparts, and the Israeli public is longer so easily bowled over.

Making peace with the enemy is sort of like love. Explains Shamir: "There can only be one first time."

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## The Palestinian view: betrayal

Palestinians did not celebrate when Anwar Sadat came to Jerusalem. Two weeks after the visit, the PLO issued a statement "in the wake of Sadat's treasonous visit to the Zionist entity" and encouraged the Arab boycott of Egypt.

After the Camp David Accords were signed in Washington in the spring of 1979, Yasser Arafat, speaking to refugees in Lebanon, vowed to "chop off the hands" of Sadat, prime minister Menachem Begin and US president Jimmy Carter.

And after Sadat was assassinated by Egyptian Islamic extremists in October 1981, Abu Iyad, one of Arafat's chief aides, said, "We shake the hand that fired the bullets."

Haider Abdel-Shafi, a Gazan who led the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace talks, says he found the assassination of Sadat "repugnant, detestable."

Ghassan Khatib, director of the Jerusalem Media and Communications Center, says, "I wasn't happy, because I think political assassinations are wrong, but I wasn't sad, either, because this was not a man I respected or cared for."

Like virtually all Palestinians, Abdel-Shafi and Khatib opposed Sadat's visit. "It was more than a feeling of disappointment; it was a feeling of betrayal," says Khatib. Abdel-Shafi likens Sadat's embrace of Israel to "walking into a dark alley."

Khatib remembers that someone brought a borrowed TV set to his West Bank village of Beit Iba, and the residents watched Sadat just as Palestinians did all over the territories. "The feeling of almost everybody was very negative," he says, noting that he helped organize anti-Sadat demonstrations at Bir Zeit University.

Khatib explains that he opposed the Sadat initiative for two reasons: It broke pan-Arab unity, and "the Arabs were at war with Israel because of the Palestinian issue, so [Arab opposition to Israel] should not have been ended until the conflict with the Palestinians was solved."

Both Khatib and Abdel-Shafi say nothing has happened in the last 20 years to make them change their minds. They totally disagree with the argument, advanced by former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, Abba Eban and many others, that the Camp David Accords' promise of Palestinian autonomy paved the way for the Oslo Accords, and made a Palestinian state an inevitability.

Abdel-Shafi insists that instead, the vague agreement on autonomy allowed Begin and his successors to expand Jewish settlements in the territories. Begin, says

Abdel-Shafi, also took advantage of the neutralization of Egypt by invading Lebanon in 1982. The peace with Egypt, he said, "provided the most crucial test of Israel's protestations about [desiring] peace, and Israel failed this test."

The autonomy called for in the Camp David Accords has been used by Israeli governments as a means of getting around the issue of Palestinian statehood, says Khatib. "The Labor government wasn't willing to move past the concept of autonomy, and now the Likud government isn't even willing to go that far," he argues. "We have been paying the price of autonomy ever since Egypt made peace with Israel."

"The skepticism I felt at the time of Sadat's visit has been vindicated," Abdel-Shafi says. "It was a betrayal," Khatib says, "and a mistake." - L.D.

## Anthem to a peacemaker

Many Israelis recall their feelings during Anwar Sadat's stunning visit to Israel as being the height of joy. For Elisha Ben-Elissar, there was the joy - and the height.

"We shared, almost all of us, the same impression: We never knew that he was that tall," Ben-Elissar says, harking back to that Saturday night on the Ben-Gurion Airport tarmac 20 years ago. He leans forward and spreads his arms. "This shows the true gap of the Middle East. We had known Egyptians very well through books, intelligence papers, reports, newspapers. But we never came in touch with Egyptians. And all of a sudden, we see the president of Egypt ... stepping in front of us."

"He was very elegantly dressed, smiling. He didn't show any tension, which is quite amazing."

Ben-Elissar, 65, in his second year as ambassador to the US, is inevitably, matter-of-factly introduced at public appearances here as Israel's first ambassador to Cairo. He would never have anticipated having that distinction early in his tenure as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office under Menachem Begin. Nor would he have predicted being assigned to arrange Sadat's welcome, nor heading the Israeli delegation to Cairo three weeks later.

Disbelief prevailed in the government for a week, starting when *The Jerusalem Post's* Middle East affairs editor, Anan Safadi, phoned Ben-Elissar on Wednesday, November 9, seeking a reaction to Sadat's reported offer to travel to Israel for peace talks. Ben-Elissar scoffed at the revelation as the usual propaganda. Only the next morning did he break the news to Begin.

That Saturday night, speaking at the Tel Aviv Hilton, Begin stated

Israel's first ambassador to Egypt, Elisha Ben-Elissar recalls the heady days of making peace. Hillel Kuttler spoke to him in Washington

that Sadat would be welcomed. CBS-News anchorman Walter Cronkite then interviewed both leaders, with Sadat repeating the offer and Begin the invitation. On Monday, November 14, Begin conveyed an official, oral invitation to Sadat to visit, through US ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, who passed it onto ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts. The next day, Lewis told Begin that Sadat wanted more.

"When he asked for a written invitation, we started believing that he meant it," Ben-Elissar says. "Begin put me in charge of the whole thing, and I went out and I started to come up with all kinds of instructions and orders." One order was for the military band to learn the Egyptian national anthem. Problem: No one had the sheet music. Ben-Elissar chuckled. "I don't want to say the word I used, but it was a nasty word. 'You take it from Cairo radio and start [practicing.]' The Americans, by the way, flew in the music through Cyprus. This is how we got it."

From the airport welcome, Begin and Sadat proceeded to the latter's suite at the King David Hotel for an hour-long, one-on-one meeting. Ben-Elissar waited outside. Begin popped out to ask that foreign minister Moshe Dayan join them, but Dayan had gone home, so Ben-Elissar sent in deputy prime minister Yigael Yadin. "That meeting was a decisive meeting, because they agreed on what actually gave the tone to the whole process that's being felt to this very day. They decided that whatever differences arose between the two countries would be solved by peaceful means."

"Each in his own style: Begin said, 'No more war, no more bloodshed,' and Sadat responded by saying, 'No more war after the October [1973] War.'"

Surely, Ben-Elissar must have had a lot to tell his wife, Nitzza, when he arrived home that night. But he recalls being "too involved" with the job at hand and he has no clue what impressions he conveyed to her.

The following month, the small Jewish community warmly greeted the 35 Israelis on the reciprocal visit to Cairo.

During Friday night services at the Cairo synagogue, Ben-Elissar says, "everybody was shedding tears" - the locals, guests and visiting Israeli and foreign Jewish reporters.



Ben-Elissar recalls that at each meeting Sadat was 'very, very polite. He never ended the meeting.' (David Rubinger)

important" two-hour conversation in the garden. Whenever they met in Alexandria, Ben-Elissar stayed overnight rather than returning immediately to Cairo so he could rush to his hotel room and jot notes on the discussion.

The two men, whose meetings were all private, didn't banter much. But here and there, the conversations drifted to history, in which Ben-Elissar holds a PhD, and to Islam and Judaism. Sadat didn't have a vast knowledge of history, he says, but he did have a "sense of history." "Sadat knew very well that he was changing

destinies, the direction of history.... [But] he didn't understand the Jews. I don't think the Egyptians or the Arabs understand the Jews. So these talks had to be led with a lot of sensitivity."

Sadat was "very, very polite. He never ended the meeting. When you are received by a head of state, it's not the guest who ends the meeting, it's the head of state who ends the meeting.... I was [always] preparing several subjects to raise and several subjects [to hold] in reserve. I used to finish all of them!"

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مكتبة النخيل



מקראות לחג

# Peace from the other side

The peace may be cool, but it's bearing fruit for Egypt — and even the harshest critics recognize that, Abraham Rabinovich reports from Cairo

On the fourth day of the Yom Kippur War, 21-year-old Egyptian photographer Mohammed Gohar crossed the Suez Canal at Kantara to take the first television pictures of Israeli prisoners to be shown the world. In the excitement and confusion at the assembly point, he asked that the wounded, many covered with blood, be carried out of camera range. That done, he found himself examining those who remained not with a camera's eye but his own.

"I was left with 16 unwounded," he recalled this week in Cairo. "There was eye contact and I started to get reaction. They were gloomy, the way prisoners are. But they were happy to see a camera pointed at them and not a gun. I saw that they were my age and that they looked like me. Many of them had dark skin. We had never been told that they were actually like us. In school we had never seen of Israelis were cartoons in the newspapers of Moshe Dayan and Golda Meir. That first contact made me a peace believer till this day."

A visitor to Cairo, relying for his perception of the nation's mood on the Egyptian press and not on the gentle likes of Mohammed Gohar, might be forgiven for believing that Egypt had slipped back from the heights to which Anwar Sadat carried it with his ascension to Jerusalem 20 years ago this week, and that it was once more seeing Israel as an ugly cartoon. Unremitting criticism of Israel fills the pages of Cairo's lively press every day to the point that the press coverage itself has become a caricature. The day after the Luxor massacre in which Islamic extremists killed 62 people, *Al-Gomhouriya* carried a front page report that a group of Israeli tourists at Luxor had been scheduled to visit temples on the western bank of the Nile, where the massacre occurred, but then changed its plans at the last moment to tour the eastern bank. The item was small but its one-column headline carried three exclamation points. Although the story did not actually say that the Israelis knew about the massacre prior to their visit, those exclamation points were a clear wink to any reader too slow to figure it out by himself.

The fixation on Israel and its demonization approaches the obsessive. *Al-Ahram*, Egypt's largest newspaper, carried 37 articles mentioning Israel on a single day. The articles printed are generally straightforward reports from the wire services or translations from the Israeli press, but those items chosen are entirely negative. Some are outright fantasies. One avid reader of the Egyptian press says he does not recall reading a single positive article about Israel. This coverage creates an atmosphere of ugliness which is augmented by the continuing ban on contacts with Israel imposed by all 15 Egyptian professional associations including those of doctors and lawyers, not to mention journalists.

Sometimes the congenial temper of the Egyptian people has survived this massive barrage of Establishment disapproval. A visiting Israeli is still received warmly when he introduces himself to ordinary Egyptians even if there may not be much to be done for him as such. The problem is not Egypt's attitude towards Israel but towards the present Israeli government, says Mohammed Abdul Monheim, managing editor of *Al-Ahram*.

"We had very warm relations with Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres and it was about to crystallize," he says in an interview. "Then the Likud came to power. The peace process depends heavily on one's counterpart. When there is someone who is charismatic and presents a human image it works well. When we come to someone who is provocative and repulsive it works the other way."

Given Egypt's central position in the Arab world, says Monheim, it is not surprising that with a separate peace and Israel's attitude towards the Palestinians, or incidents such as the attempted assassination of Khaled Mashaal in Amman.

"Whether we like it or not, we are members of the same [Arab] family. We are the closest and biggest. We are the family and we have an obligation. We cannot give up the Palestinians on a platter."

Hassan places Israeli-Egyptian relations in a broader context than journalist Monheim and arrives at different conclusions.

"Egypt has led the whole march, militarily, and thinks it has the burden of being responsible for peace too. Our intellectuals are occupying themselves all the time with the Israeli-Arab dispute as if it's the only problem we have. It's reached the point that whenever anything bad happens to us the blame is put on Israel."

But the problem in this valley [the Nile Valley] is not the Israeli-Arab dispute. We have problems of our own. We've just seen it at Luxor. We think ancient thoughts.

**"The Israelis are strong but afraid. There was a great possibility of making them part of the region until the Likud victory. The Likud sees Israel as a castle surrounded by walls. Labor thought of it as a country living among other countries"**

—Ali Hassan, Egyptian playwright

We do not think scientifically. I advocate reason, putting priorities in a proper hierarchy. The conflict with Israel is dissipating energy," he says.

Defying the ban on visits to Israel imposed by Egyptian cultural associations, Hassan has visited Israel twice and written a book on his first visit in 1994. His act drew abusive articles in the press but, he says, lots of positive reaction from friends and strangers. He has also lectured on his visit in other Arab countries.

"The Israelis are strong but afraid," he says. "There was a

great possibility of making them part of the region until the Likud victory. The Likud sees Israel as a castle surrounded by walls. Labor thought of it as a country living among other countries."

The Middle East, Hassan says, has produced three monotheistic religions and still has not managed to erase conflict. Sadat was a prophet too but he was regarded by Egyptian intellectuals, says Hassan, as a traitor who sold out the Arab cause. "Sadat was a hero only in 'the street'."

The enthusiasm of the street for peace was powerful enough to carry Egypt over all the subsequent bumps in the road. On the wall of photographer Gohar's office is a picture of Sadat at the massive Cairo rally marking his return from Jerusalem. "Two million people turned out spontaneously to receive him," says Gohar, who had become, by then, Sadat's personal photographer. "It was the only referendum ever held in Egypt on the peace process and relations with Israel."

Even those members of the elite most critical of Israel acknowledge that the relative economic boom Egypt has been experiencing represents "the fruits of peace," as it is widely referred to. In removing Egypt from the cycle of war, Sadat declared that wars against Israel had cost Egypt \$100 billion and tens of thousands of lives.

In fact, the economic boom only began about 1991, under President Hosni Mubarak, when privatization opened the way to large-scale foreign investments. Simultaneously, a massive write-off of Egyptian debts by the US and other countries, about \$20 billion, as well as large-scale foreign grants enabled Egypt to begin investing heavily in sorely-needed infrastructure like utility lines.

A growth rate of 4-5 percent annually in recent years has improved the situation but economists say that given the base from which the climb began, Egypt would need a sustained growth of 8-10% a year for some 15 years to achieve economic balance.

The new prosperity can be seen in the elegant shops glittering alongside the road on the way from the airport, and in conversations with members of the elite.

"In my apartment block 20 years ago, maybe half the residents had cars," says newspaper columnist Hassan Fouad. "Today everybody in the block has a car, some have more than one and one family has five."



Cairo's Khan-el-Khalili market. 'Egyptians no longer feel like they did back in 1973. The individual Egyptian does not hate Israelis,' says Mohammed Gohar, who was Sadat's personal photographer. (R. Nowitz)

However, just behind the glittering roads are sprawling neighborhoods immersed in poverty and further than ever from the growing prosperity of the upper classes. It is from the impoverished masses that the radical Islamists such as those who carried out the Luxor massacre draw their recruits.

The object of the extremists is to undermine the Egyptian government's economic base and bring about chaos from which an Iranian-style fundamentalist regime would emerge. A foreign diplomat estimated that if free elections were held in Egypt today, the Muslim Brotherhood would capture 30-40% of the vote.

Egyptian-Israeli trade is only \$82 million a year, a fraction of what it could be in a warmer political atmosphere. Only one Israeli-Egyptian joint industrial venture is presently operating in Egypt, a textile plant producing clothing for export to Marks and Spencer and providing jobs for hundreds of Egyptians. Egyptian businessmen are discouraged from doing busi-

ness in Israel by being warned, according to one informed source, that the Mossad might try to recruit them.

Although the coolness towards Israel by the Egyptian establishment is generally attributed to the character of the present Israeli government, it also existed when there was a Labor government in Israel. Press comment was very critical then too, if somewhat less so than today, and the ban by professional associations on contacts with Israel has been in effect from the beginning of relations between the two countries.

Why do these deeply-held reservations, if not outright hostilities, continue to flourish if they do not reflect the attitude of average Egyptians?

The residue of past wars is one explanation. "Many people know someone who was killed or wounded or whose home was destroyed," says one foreign resident in Cairo. Empathy for the Palestinians and the Syrians is certainly also a factor. Egyptian intellectuals inter-

viewed deny that there is a deeper objection — unspoken and perhaps even unconscious — to the very presence of a non-Arab entity in the Middle East, one which has won its way by force of arms. "Israel is a fait accompli," is the way more than one puts it, but that does not necessarily make it easy to swallow.

There is also an extreme wariness that Israel might regard itself superior to the Arabs and thus make the Arabs uncomfortable about themselves.

"Peace is enabling us to rebuild the country," says journalist Monheim. "But to hell with prosperity if you are going to humiliate the Arabs, if you are going to

humiliate the Egyptians." "Egyptians no longer feel like they did back in 1973," says photographer Gohar. "There is no longer a feeling of revenge, no feeling of enemy. The differences are political. The individual Egyptian does not hate Israelis. We are not going back to zero."

Nowhere does a visitor pick up hints that war remains an option, even at the back of people's minds.

Anwar Sadat's ringing pledge — "No more war" — is accepted as a basis of life now in "the valley," as vital and enduring as the river itself, even if the alternative to making war is not necessarily making love.

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# Starving for an education

### A group of parents in Holon are on a hunger strike to demand that their children be allowed to go to their school of choice, Dan Izenberg writes

Since the beginning of the school year, dozens of the brightest 12-year-olds in Holon have not been in school. The children's parents and the authorities — the Education Ministry and the Holon Municipality — each blame the other for this state of affairs.

The fight involved 150 children at first but now involves some 60 families who are insisting that their children, currently at home, be allowed to study at the Mikve Yisrael Junior High School in Tel Aviv, which offers an enriched nature studies program. On Sunday, 19 parents launched a hunger strike to press their demands.

"The parents are holding their children hostage," charged Rami Hochman, head of the municipality's Education Authority. "They have a hidden agenda. They say they want their children to study nature, but they really want to cut them off from the rest of the community and create an elite group."

The parents say they have been victimized and bullied by the authorities. "They made all the mistakes, and we are being forced to pay the price," said Rachel Ya'acobi, whose husband, Yigal, is among the hunger strikers. Ya'acobi has only drunk fluids since the strike began.

The hunger strike is voluntary. Only one parent in each family is striking, so the other can take care of the children. At night, some of the protesters, who are holding a 24-hour vigil in a park opposite City Hall, sleep in tents.

The protesters are backed by many of the families who began the fight with them in August but whose children have since been accepted to Mikve. One of them is Orly Sela.

"I feel very involved with them," said Sela, who is among the hunger strikers. "I know that my son is studying in Mikve thanks to our joint struggle, and I cannot abandon the other families now."

The parents say they will continue to strike until all 60 children are admitted to Mikve — although in truth, it seems that they would settle for a solution whereby they all study together in homogeneous classes at some other high school. The city, which has formally ordered the children to disperse and enroll in the junior high schools in their school districts, has, in fact, agreed to place the children in three homogeneous classes in three different schools.

So the gap between the two sides does not seem so great. But as in so many disputes, the bitterness and animosity that have developed over the past months makes compromise that much more difficult.

THE BACKDROP to the conflict is what is still known as "the Reform" — the program of educational integration initiated by the Knesset in 1968, which was meant to assure that children from poor families be given a better chance of completing high school.

Under the reform program, the traditional four-year high school was expanded into a six-year comprehensive school split into two divisions — a junior high from grades seven to nine, and a senior high from grades 10 to 12. The junior high enrolls children from a rigidly defined catchment area that includes primary schools from both rich and poor neighborhoods.

The children study together, and as many of the junior high school graduates as possible are supposed to be encouraged to continue their studies in the senior high school of the same institution.

The reform has been much more systematically imposed in the secular education system than in the state-religious system (it was never imposed on the haredi system). But even in the secular system, there are exceptions — for example, junior high schools specializing in certain fields, such as art, drama, sports and progressive

education, which are not bound by school districts. Some parents try to avoid integration by sending their children to such schools.

The Reform, which has aroused a great deal of controversy over the years, was introduced in Holon just three years ago.

THE DISPUTE over Mikve Yisrael began last February when some 200 parents of sixth-graders from all over Holon applied to send their children to the school. They did so in response to a recruiting program conducted by Mikve Yisrael throughout the city. The school tested the applicants and accepted about 150 of them for the 1997-98 school year.

The problem was that officially, Mikve Yisrael had no right to conduct such a program or to accept most of these children. In 1995, the Education Ministry's Higher Committee on Reform ruled that even though it had an enriched nature studies program, Mikve Yisrael would be classified as a regular junior high school rather than a special high school. As such, it must accept all the children of two specific schools in the city — Revivim and Hatavor.

Because of its nature program, however, it was given special dispensation to accept 35 children from other parts of the city in an additional inter-district class.

So much for formalities. In fact, Mikve Yisrael, with the active encouragement of the Holon Municipality, has been accepting children from all over the city for the past five years — before and after the Reform was instituted.

Last year, according to principal Alex Levine, it accepted 142 children to the program without evoking a murmur. Ya'acobi displayed a letter signed the previous year by Hochman's predecessor at the Education Authority, Ze'ev Peleg, encouraging Holon's children to enroll at Mikve Yisrael. Last February — as parents were begin-



Hunger strikers opposite Holon Town Hall. (Left) Deputy Mayor Ephraim Koren and Yigal Ya'acobi. (Jonathan Bloom)

ning to sign up their children for Mikve — Hochman replaced Peleg. Over the next few months, he launched a campaign to undo the prevailing illegal state of affairs. In April, the Holon Municipality sent letters to the parents of all the city's sixth graders, informing them of their school district and the junior high school that their children would be obliged to attend for the 1997/98 school year. None were directed to Mikve Yisrael — for some reason, not even the children of Revivim and Hatavor who, according to the 1995 decision, were supposed to go there.

It was as if everyone — the Education Ministry, Mikve Yisrael, the Holon Municipality, and the parents (assuming they knew of it) — had been ignoring, and were continuing to ignore, an official decision of the ministry's Higher Committee on Reform.

In June, the dispute, which had been fought within the bureaucracy until then — though it is a safe assumption that the parents were informed by Levine of what was going on — bubbled to the surface. That month, the Education Ministry held a special meeting and annulled the Mikve Yisrael registration.

On June 30, according to Hochman, the municipality sent registered letters to all the parents, informing them of the decision. The parents claim they were informed of it on August 21, only 10 days before the beginning of school.

Egged on by Mikve Yisrael principal Levine, who kept telling them his school was entitled to accept children from all parts of Holon, the parents petitioned the High Court of Justice.

On August 28, the court rejected the petition. It accused the parents of concealing information and ruled that "they were not entitled to ignore the announcements sent by the Holon Municipality as early as April 1997 and to take the law into their own hands. They had no grounds to believe that the registration of their children in Mikve Yisrael was legal."

THE AUTHORITIES maintain that the ruling should have put an end to the dispute. "The parents presented all their arguments to the High Court," said the Education Ministry's Tel Aviv district head, Yossi Levy. "In discussing the dispute, our starting point must be its decision. I don't accept the principle of rejecting the High Court. If the parents are unhappy with its decision, let them ask for another hearing before nine justices."

But the parents were indeed unhappy with the High Court decision, and they did reject it. On September 1, they brought their children to the lawns of Mikve Yisrael and started teaching them themselves.

Since then, there have been many meetings between the sides. In late October, the parents agreed to a compromise. The children of

Revivim and Hatavor would study at Mikve Yisrael while the rest would be allowed to study together in another school. In fact, only those pupils from Revivim and Hatavor who passed the entrance test are now studying there, and that, only since November 10. The weaker pupils from those schools — with the full knowledge of the city, the ministry and Mikve Yisrael — are studying in other schools — once again, in violation of the 1995 Higher Committee on Reform decision.

On November 10, when the children of Revivim and Hatavor who had passed the exams were allowed to take their seats at Mikve, the rest were sent home.

Orly Sela describes the procedure as a "selection. The scenes of friends being separated from one another were heartbreaking." Over the next few days, no solution was found for the children at home.

The parents rejected all the compromises proposed by the municipality and accused Hochman and Mayor Motti Sasson of negotiating in bad faith. At the end of that week, they decided to launch their hunger strike.

ACCORDING TO Hochman and Education Ministry spokesman Benny Shukrun, the battle of the authorities with the parents is over the future of educational integration in Holon.

"The school districts are the basis of the educational system," said Shukrun. "If you enable the best students in the community to enroll in one or two schools, you destroy the educational system. That is what the Holon Municipality is fighting about and we support them."

Hochman added that even if the city had made a mistake with regard to Mikve Yisrael in the past, that was no reason to perpetuate it.

"Just because a person stole last year, doesn't mean he should be allowed to steal this year, too," he said. "The parents don't believe the

municipality's motives are so pure. Ya'acobi claimed that most of the junior high schools have empty classrooms that need to be filled and the city wants the would-be Mikve children to fill them. One reason for these empty seats, she charged, is that the city had allowed another school — the Ort High School — to open a junior high and admit 60 children from outside its catchment area.

Sela was asked about her attitude to integration in principle and to respond to the accusations that the striking parents are an elitist group who want to keep their children away from the disadvantaged.

"I don't want to talk about integration," she replied. "That is not the issue here. Our issue is that we acted in good faith and they deceived us."

Nevertheless, she continued: "They accuse us of being elitist. But there are many people here with serious problems. We have two unemployed single fathers, one single mother with small children. There are children here from all over the city, including the slums. There are children who were rejected in their own schools and found a warm and accepting environment at Mikve Yisrael."

"It's not true that we are an elite group. We ourselves are integrated." How do the children — the focus of the dispute — feel about what is going on? Does it really bother them that they are not in school?

"They are upset by the uncertainty of the situation, by not knowing what is happening," said Sela. "It has made them anxious and restless. They have come to reject all structures, even at home. They take everything much harder and you can see that they are undergoing a crisis."

"I was talking to one of the mothers on the phone one day," added Yigal Ya'acobi. "Suddenly, in the background, I heard her son burst out crying. The boy shouted: 'I don't want to live anymore.'"



Children of strikers receive lessons in Town Square. (Jonathan Bloom)

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### In response to the many who are concerned by the false rumors in circulation, we wish to state:

- We are grieved and distressed by the departure of members of the Torah staff of Yeshivath Mercatz Harav, two roshes mesivta and four merbitzei Torah. All divisiveness in the Yeshivah is an injury to Torah and stands in total contradiction to the principle of the teachings of HaRav Kook. "I am convinced that in Eretz Israel in particular there is neither place nor manner to multiply factions even for a holy purpose" (Igrot Re'iyah 1:63)
- This event took place under the pretext of the scandalous lie that a Teachers' Institute had been set up in the Yeshivah - which was not so, and had no foundation in fact. The director-general of the Department of Education denied, in a letter, that there had been any intention to set up such an institution. Nor did the secessionists apply to the Rash Yeshivah to check the facts and verify them.
- We wish to disassociate ourselves from the paper "Clarification", which was signed by the secessionist roshes mesivta. The paper said that any connection with the Department of Education is "idolatry, hilul haShem, and at the very least collaboration with idolatry." There is no place in our *beit midrash* for such a point of view. One cannot conceive of students of the Yeshivah expressing themselves thus, in the manner of those who are called the *Nesurai Kara*.
- What has been done is contrary to the plain *halakot* explained in the Shulhan Arukh, Yoreh Deah, 242 which forbids one to take issue with his Rav, to cause strife, to establish a yeshivah in place of his rav, and so on.
- Our support and encouragement is extended to the pupils and rabbanim of the Yeshivah, who spend their days in the glorification of the Torah. The Yeshivah, with its staff of eighteen roshes mesivta, among the finest pupils of the Yeshivah in the past and in the present, will grow, with the help of G-d, more and more in Torah and in faith, and in the love of Israel, in the way which was laid down by the illustrious Founders.
- To the pupils of the Yeshivah who have turned aside we call turn back! Remove from yourselves that inclination to dissension which is in opposition to the way of the Yeshivah. Let us walk in innocence and uprightness, modesty and humility, and "love ye truth and peace." Let each one help his friend and encourage his brother.
- It is our hope that those who have left will see the error of their way and will return in complete repentance to their places.

Alumni of Yeshivath Mercatz Harav

### Therefore Love Ye Truth And Peace

We - graduates of Yeshivath Mercatz Harav who were privileged to be numbered among the pupils of Morenu U'Rabbeinu HaRav Tzvi Yehudah Kook - are deeply distressed by the divisive events which have taken place in our Yeshivah.

What has occurred is totally in opposition to the teachings and instruction in the great principles of harmony and respect for Torah scholars and the Torah, which we received from Morenu U'Rabbeinu HaRav Tzvi Yehudah Kook.

Moved by a feeling of responsibility and the desire to preserve the Yeshivah in its entirety, we stand behind Morenu U'Rabbeinu, the Rash Yeshivah, HaRav Avraham Elkannah Cahana Shapira, who has devoted his life to the glorification of the Torah, and the completeness of our People and our Land.

Happy is the lot of those students who find themselves in Yeshivath Mercatz Harav, absorbing the spirit of our great rabbanim, and privileged to glorify and aggrandize the Torah.

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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Unlike most other slavery-bound prisoners in 1839, those aboard the Spanish boat Amistrad decided to seize control of their fate. Led by one Joseph Cinique, they killed that vessel's skipper and cook, and ordered the crew to set sail back to Africa.

even pray for the skipper and cook - Avigdor Lieberman - whom it so much wants to throw overboard. Yet at the end of the day, when the current celebration of leaving, whispering, speculating and besmirching is over, Likud's colorful but disoriented conspirators will have little to bask in except the cook's ashen flesh.

Surely, the doubts increasingly cast over Netanyahu's personal capacity and political fate, as well as the distressing dilemmas arising from the direct-election reform's sour fruits, are weightier than the abrupt downfall of yet another power-drunk political aide. Still, there is a lesson to be learned, particularly by future premiers, from the meteoric rise and imminent demise of Bibi's right-hand man.

In its 50 years, Israel has seen two extreme models of gate keepers at the Prime Minister's Office: one was that of Yaacov Herzog, the other of Shimon Sheves. Herzog, a seasoned thinker, lawyer, polemicist, essayist, rabbi and diplomat, shunned the partisan entanglements of the two premiers - Golda Meir and Levi Eshkol -

under whom he served. Rather, he spent his time coordinating government activities and orchestrating various non-contentious projects, ranging from negotiations with the Vatican to assembling in Jerusalem a conference of Jewish tycoons.

Sheves, by contrast, was a small-time, boorish and shallow politician whose main asset was his unbridled loyalty to Yitzhak Rabin. The thought of him locking horns with an intellectual giant like anti-Zionist historian Arnold Toynbee - as Herzog had done, in a memorable debate in Canada in 1961 - is about as plausible as the heavyset, former bouncer Lieberman joining the Bat-Sheva dance troupe.

Though theoretically a civil servant rather than a politician, Sheves - who had tried, but failed, to enter Labor's Knesset list - was deeply involved in all his master's struggles and travails, and felt sufficiently relevant and knowledgeable to have a say on just about anything, from where housing should be subsidized to whether capital gains should be taxed. Expectedly, he ended up sinking shoulder-deep in administrative bravado with a host of ministers

until one day he found himself outside the castle's heavy gates. Just how he was led to "resign" remains unclear, but one way or another, at a certain point, Rabin apparently realized his little asset had become a big liability, and showed him the way out. After Rabin's murder, Sheves was reportedly investigated for alleged involvement in share manipulations and abuse of inside information.

The sad lesson of that saga was - and should remain - that a prime minister's powers are prone to be sucked by the assorted sycophants who are likely to latch onto the fringes of his gown.

Most prime-ministerial director generals were neither the Herzog-type of a renaissance man nor the Sheves-type of a power monger. Menachem Begin, for instance, hired for that job political confidantes Maniyahu Shmuelovitz and Elahu Ben-Elissar, but both were wise and tactful enough to avoid back-alley intrigue, let alone high-profile backstabbing. The same was true of David Ben-Gurion's Teddy Kollek and Yitzhak Shamir's Yossi Ben-Aharon who, though donning

famously solid ideological identities, remained largely aloof from the thick of the partisan landscape.

Now Likud has brought forth a Shimon Sheves meddler-type of its own, in the form of Lieberman. One can understand the wrath, embarrassment and fear which have gripped the ruling party's top brass upon realizing the fatal blows which the PM's Ahitophel was determined to deal them, by abandoning the primaries. One cannot understand why all those would-be purists stood by idly for as long as the Lieberman phenomenon did not threaten them personally.

To avoid such mishaps, future prime ministers would do well to recruit as chiefs-of-staff true civil servants, ones who would focus on the government's national affairs, and do so not as a grudging concession to the formal definition of the job, but because party politics makes them reflexively vomit. Obviously, political leaders need party whips, just like boat skippers need cooks. Their place, however, is in the kitchen, not on the command deck, and their task is to keep the skipper going, not to substitute his compass.

# Dump the cook

# Dry Bones



### SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RESKIN

# The ultimate sacrifice

Parshat Hayei Sarah

understand a God who changes His mind, so to speak?

The answer is that "the deeds of the forefathers and foremothers are guideposts for the future actions of their descendants." From this perspective, both commands are necessary - each in its own time, each for its own challenge.

Essentially, our Bible teaches that God doesn't want us to die for Him but rather to live for Him, by His laws. Except for three most stringent prohibitions - idolatry, adultery and murder - when faced with the choice of transgressing a commandment or giving up one's life, the individual Jew is to transgress and live. The Bible commands that "You shall live by My laws." In effect, therefore, the commanding verse throughout the generations is: "Do not cast your hand upon the lad," thus sanctify God's name in life.

Yet there will be times when the first command will be operative: "Take your son, your only one, whom you love, even Isaac, and bring him up as an offering." (Gen. 22:2). Yes, perhaps God merely meant that Abraham ought to climb the mountain with Isaac, pray with him, and thus elevate Isaac (as Rashi states).

But the words are purposely ambiguous because the Almighty knows only too well that periods of bitter persecution will befall the Jews in future generations, when pious men and women will have to go to the fiery stake and will even face the terrible horror of bringing their own children to that stake - in sanctification of God's name, in order for Judaism to survive.

How often were Jewish parents given the choice of having their children baptized or killed, and the distraught fathers and mothers had to make the most painful decisions of their lives?

And are we, the Israeli pioneers, not expressing the real sacrifice of Abraham and Sarah when we educate our children to serve in the army, to be ready to make the supreme sacrifice for our people? Since Jewish history covers both these ranges of experience, it was necessary for God to speak ambiguously, to give, as it were, two commands.

Our ideal is to serve God in life, but there are moments when we must sanctify His name in death.

When Rashi cites the Midrashic phrase that Isaac was nearly sacrificed, was almost but finally not sacrificed (ke-ma'at shelo nishhat), he is struggling to include both possibilities and eventualities. As long as we look upon the Akeida as a blueprint for the future, it means Sarah understood that although this time her beloved Isaac's life was spared, his descendants would not always be so fortunate.

Death, as well as the threat of death, is part and parcel of the Jewish experience; to be a Jew is to be a member of an exalted but dangerous and risk-laden profession. Sarah is the consummate mother, who feels not only for her son but for all her descendants. She may only weep and wait for her son's near death, but her soul expires because of the terrible trials and executions which await her great-grandchildren.

The Akeida may be the binding of Isaac, but from the Midrashic point of view, it is the sacrifice of Sarah.

Shabbat Shalom

# The Hamas Benevolent Society

### A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

The Jewish people has faced many enemies during its four-millennial history, and has survived them all. But now we face an enemy who seems on the verge of doing us in once and for all, as it nearly did when Moses led us out of Egypt.

Half a century after rising from the ashes of the confederation set by Germany, 50 years after renewing our sovereignty in our homeland in the face of a five-pronged Arab onslaught and the virtual indifference of the rest of the world - 50 years during which we have repulsed attack after attack, managed an unparalleled ingathering of the Exiles, and built a vigorous social, intellectual and economic life that won widespread admiration - that enemy appears to be on the verge of rendering us irrelevant to history, perhaps even eliminating us from history.

That enemy, of course, is us. IMAGINE SOMEONE describing Hitler's Nazi Party, at that time or today, in the following terms: "The Nazi Party is not just a terrorist group... it also is a large socio-religious movement involved in communal work... committed to the reconstruction of the German society and economy."

Imagine the writer then explaining that the Nazis turned violent only because of the Versailles Treaty; because the Weimar government was dismantling Germany - and that government, of course, was riddled with Jews, who had stabbed the undefeated Germany army in the back and were continuing to humiliate Germans.

In such terms a local expert on political extremism recently described the Hamas murder-suicide organization. He is Hebrew University Prof. Ehud Sprinzak, who is also a senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington.

In an op-ed article in the October 19 Washington Post, headlined "How Israel Misjudges Hamas and Its Terrorism," Sprinzak leads off by telling his readers that both Shimon Peres, when he was prime minister, and his successor, Binayamin Netanyahu, have demonized Hamas.

Peres did so for reasons of expediency, because, according to our learned, ultra-liberal professor, accepting the word of Hamas "arch terrorist" Hassan Salameh, it was our assassination of Yihye Ayyash, the murderous Hamas "engineer," that had "prompted his followers to organize the three suicide bombings that stunned Israel in [early] 1996."

Sprinzak notes that, at that time, Peres had falsely tried to lead us to believe that those three massacres "stem from a strategic decision to bring down the Israeli peace government." Netanyahu allegedly demonizes Hamas because "He does not truly believe in the Oslo peace process." (Most Israeli Jews, 99.9% of whom desperately desire peace, also do not believe in the "Oslo peace process," because we have not found that our partners in that process are aiming for peace in the accepted sense of the term. But that is another matter.)

According to Sprinzak, Hamas's "opposition to the peace process has never led Hamas leaders to adopt a strategy of wholesale suicide bombing. Rather, suicide terrorism has been allowed... as a measure of tactical revenge for humiliating Israeli actions."

There is no need to enumerate those alleged humiliating actions, because our very sovereign presence here is a humiliation to those Arabs, especially our refusal to let them succeed in their repeated aggressions against us.

Sprinzak goes on to tell us that contrary to "its most persistent image in the Western media, Hamas is not just a terrorist group," but "has made it possible for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to survive and live a semblance of a decent life." It "only took up arms in 1988... After years of nonviolent educational and communal work."

There you have it: If not for us accursed Zionists, Hamas would be able to continue to devote all its energies to noble eleemosynary activities.

RATHER THAN have Prof. Sprinzak or me tell you what Hamas is, let's see how it describes itself in its charter, issued in August 1988.

The charter is headed by three epigraphs. The first is a section from the Koran's Sura 3, which declares that "the People of the Book" [i.e. the Jews and Christians] are mostly "evildoers," and "ignominy shall be their portion."

The second epigraph is a citation from "the Imam and Martyr Hassan al-Banna," founder of the Moslem Brothers movement in Egypt in the 1920s, out of which Hamas grew. "Israel will rise and will remain erect until Islam eliminates it as it had eliminated its predecessors."

Article 5 declares that Hamas "is a distinct Palestinian movement which... strives to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine."

Article 7 closes with a passage from a later Moslem hadith/tradition according to which Mohammed said that the Day of Judgment will not come until "Moslems will fight the Jews [and kill them]; until the Jews hide behind rocks and trees, which will cry: 'O Moslem! there is a Jew hiding behind me; come on and kill him!'"

Article 13 declares: "[Peace] initiatives... and the international conferences to resolve the Palestinian problem are all contrary to the beliefs of [Hamas]. For renouncing any part of Palestine means renouncing part of the religion... There is no solution to the Palestinian problem except by jihad [holy war]."

In several places the Hamas charter tells us that we Jews, who "stood behind the French and the Communist revolutions and most of the revolutions we hear about here and there," have used our money "to establish clandestine organizations which are spreading around the world in order to destroy societies and carry out Zionist interests." Among these "destructive, spying organizations" are the Freemasons, Rotary, Lions, B'nai B'rith, "and the like."

Such is the Hamas Mutual Aid & Benevolent Society. (Thanks to the Hebrew University's Dr. Raphael Israeli for his historical background to, and annotated text of, the Hamas charter in The 1988-1989 Annual on Terrorism, edited by Yanah Alexander and H. Foxman.)

E-mail comments to: moshe@jpost.co.il. Please include home address.

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# When business beats politics

Meet Omar Salah. He's 28, dashing, rich and unafraid to trade with what many Arabs still refer to as the "Little Satan."

In 1993, Salah, a Jordanian educated in the US and raised in Britain, saw an opportunity. Israel had just signed an agreement with the PLO on interim peace. Soon after, Jordan signed its own accord with Israel. Salah knew that trade links would be next and he wanted to be first on line.

Salah began to visit Israel and to forge contacts with Israeli industrialists. His goal was to establish joint ventures between Israeli companies and various Jordanian industries.

Today, Salah's Century Investment Group has 12 ventures with Israeli companies and they produce everything from underwear to software. The products are to be exported duty-free to the US, with the next targets being the European Union and the Arab world.

For Salah, the process cannot move fast enough. "There is now a sense of urgency for change," he says. "Things have to move forward and we don't have time."

The Arab-Israeli peace process might be receding. Pledges of huge Western investment might have evaporated. But quietly both Israeli and Arab analysts say that new hope for change has emerged in the region: a small but powerful group of young Western-educated Arab businesspeople who are plainly sick of their regimes and want economic reforms and democracy so they can profit.

"We keep the heat on, trying to

### A new generation of Arab entrepreneurs are happy to trade with Israel, as Steve Rodan discovers in Qatar

force things through and lately the governments have been accepting such kinds of pressure," Salah says. "I think it is the merging of these local Arab businessmen together with multinationals that will make the change," says Uri Savir, former director general of the foreign ministry and now director of the Shimon Peres Peace Center.

"It won't be the local businessmen themselves. It will be the will of the multinationals which will demand openness and reform as a condition for joint ventures," Savir says.

Such a development could be a boon to Israel. Siemens Data Communication, for example, has been opening several joint ventures incorporating Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian engineers. Some work together in the northern town of Karniel in a project that has attracted Arab engineers from throughout the region.

Many in this emerging business class see Israel as an opportunity rather than an ideological obstacle. Jamil Ibrahim and John El Khair are businessmen from Bahrain. They met with Israeli industrialists at the Middle East economic conference in Doha and with former prime minister Shimon Peres.

"I'm looking for partners in joint ventures because I believe you have advanced technology," Ibrahim, who runs a company involved in construction and food production,

says. "You also have an advanced banking system that we find important." "Israel is quite good," El Khair, an executive at Chase Manhattan Bank, says. "They are looking for markets and if it wasn't for politics you would have done something in my country."

Many in the new generation of Arab businessmen have been bold enough to bypass the traditional boycott of Israel by Middle East

**"Yes I am very different from my father," says the son of a leading Jordanian politician. "My father's concerns are politics. I want to make money"**

regimes. The trick has been to import Israeli goods via multinationals in Europe or through the US. A product might bear a tag saying it was made either in the EU or the US, or even in Jordan, when actually it was "Made in Israel."

Take what is being marketed in Qatar supermarkets as Jordanian tomatoes. "They are all the rage among Qatari professionals educated in the West. The Jordanian label is their entry ticket to this Gulf sheikdom, but it is a well-kept secret that the tomatoes are really from Israel."

"I used to eat Jordanian tomatoes a few years ago," a Qatari official says. "They were poorly packaged as other Arab products and differed in size and taste. These tomatoes are packaged as any American tomatoes would and look and taste the same. There is no doubt that this is Israeli."

Other Arab businessmen are dealing with Israelis in joint ventures based on exports through the duty-free port of Dubai. That is where labels are changed and everything from Israeli produce to software are shipped throughout the Arab world. Such businessmen as Jordan's Salah consider Israel as a partner even in what they regard as the stalled peace process. They dismiss the refusal of Arab governments to send officials to the Doha conference as essentially meaningless.

"I tell people that the saddest part of events of late is that people of the region can actually get along," Salah says. "Relationships between Arabs and Jews are very possible and practical."

These new cadres of young Western-educated businessmen

have some influence on their governments, diplomats say. A good example is Morocco where King Hassan II has actually conceded some authority to permit privatization and the opening of capital markets. The result is that the North African kingdom has one of the fastest growing economies in the region, a development Hassan hopes will help fight the influence of Islamic fundamentalism.

In Jordan, successive governments have observed International Monetary Fund guidelines regarding privatization and the creation of capital markets. Officials and Arab businessmen say the Hashemite kingdom has instituted some of the most liberal regulations in the region. The result has been an inflow of Arab and Western capital and investments.

In Qatar, Emir Hamad Bin Khalifa Althani presides over a young government of Western-educated technocrats who have introduced unprecedented social and economic reforms. The emir's wife may have seven children like other Gulf women but she is university educated and leading a drive for women's rights.

In Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak might be mouthing the tired old slogans of Arab unity and resistance. But his 34-year-old son Jamal is a leading entrepreneur fighting for Western-style reforms. Mubarak's son is not the only offspring of a leader to embark on a different path from his father. Many of the Western-educated young businesspeople at the Doha conference were sons of prominent Arab government officials.

"Yes, I am very different from my father," says the son of a leading Jordanian politician who did not want to be identified. "My father's concerns are politics. I want to make money."

"I visit my father often but I have a different agenda," says the son of a leading Palestinian in Gaza. "I share my father's thoughts on many things but I am first and foremost a businessman."

Critics say that the new generation of Arab businessmen may have little influence because their aim is making money rather than changing the system. They describe these people as materialistic and selfish - even if their command of English is a lot better than their fathers'.

"Their Western education doesn't last forever," a European diplomat based in Kuwait says. "These people return home and find no jobs in the private sector. So, they get a government job and run a business on the side using the connections of their powerful father. They turn out to be very materialistic and just think about their next car."

And despite the brave talk of some, many of the new Arab generation still don't dare to buck the system. Ibrahim, the Bahrain businessman who deals with Israelis, points out that his country still bans Israeli products. He is not sure whether this boycott will be lifted anytime soon.

"We have to look over our shoulders at the Saudis," Ibrahim says, referring to Bahrain's huge neighbor which provides the sheikdom with economic aid. "These people help us."

Even the most fervent of Arab businessmen don't expect much democratization in the Middle East anytime soon. Democracy, they say, leads to calls for respecting human rights by impoverished minorities, and this tends to anger the leaders of neighboring nations bent on remaining totalitarian.

"To open the doors of democracy, you have to make calculations for the region," Qatar Foreign Minister Hamad Bin Jassin Althani says. "We want to do this in a way that will not hurt other countries."

Even Jordan's Salah is careful not to anger too many in his country who want to continue the boycott of Israel. He rarely speaks to the media and had kept the Jordanian-Israeli joint ventures a secret until the Doha conference, where he revealed them mainly in an effort to attract non-Israeli investment. Salah's industrial zone produces garments for the Gap, a US-based chain store for sportswear.

Fahed Faneq, a leading Jordanian economist and newspaper columnist, does not see Salah as representing a trend. "I think politics are important and you cannot skip over it," he says. "Public opinion [in Jordan against Israel] is strong. Businessmen are hesitating. Omar Salah is an exception. He is not seen in public gatherings in Jordan. I don't think he can be seen."

And Salah himself acknowledges that he feels like an iconoclast operating in a region that demands conformity. His main worry is not about whether his businesses will fail, he says, but about how he can keep making money with Israelis while angering in the Arab world continues to grow against the government of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

## GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Dennis Ross, a loyal son

(Issac Hazzan)

# Ross chooses Mom over Qatar

Roving troubleshooter Dennis Ross replaced his US peace process architect hat last weekend with that of loyal son. Ross missed this week's economic conference in Doha, Qatar, because of a long-standing commitment to speak in his hometown of San Francisco at a Hadassah dinner honoring his mother, Gloria, and her husband, Lou Cheria. Ross's brother and sister and their families also attended.

While he was geographically removed from the Middle East, Ross's address nonetheless centered on the roots of the peace process, the stalemated Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and the 20th anniversary of the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem.

SPEAKING at the Tel Aviv Museum where, together with his wife, Ziva, and Tamar Radich, Raya Jaglom, Benno Gitter, Dina Ettinger and Rafael Efrat, he received the museum's Honorary Fellowship Award, former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat noted that cultural development had been so important to the city's first mayor, Meir Dizengoff, that he donated his house to help establish the Tel Aviv Museum. Then, in an oblique reference to current mayor Roni Milo, Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert and former Lod mayor Maxim Levy, who are all working to unseat the prime minister, Lahat remarked: "Even today, when you are looking to do good things, it's the mayors who are the leaders." It was not the only reference to Milo's ambition to step into Netanyahu's shoes. Artist Michal Rovner, who was the recipient of the Gantz Prize for the Advancement of the Arts, recalled that Milo had once told her that he wished he were an artist because he could then continue doing what he

Hussein, but this time in the guise of Environment Minister Rafael Eitan, Tsafir quipped: "If Saddam sends missiles to Israel, we'll retaliate with water from the Yarkon." Then taking on the persona of former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, Tsafir, reflecting on the national elections, said: "Every four years we go to elections to find out who will be Shas's partner in the coalition." Tsafir saluted Ronit Sofer, a 19-year-old who three years ago, as the result of a road accident, suffered a spinal injury which paralyzed her from the neck down. After three years of hospitalization at Alyn, she went from being a quadriplegic to a person who has mastered independent walking while, at the same time, completing her matriculation exams with excellent grades.

WHEN newly arrived Greek consul Ioannis Taghis saw a newspaper photograph of conductor Elias Voudouris last week, he realized he'd soon have a chance to meet up with the Athens school buddy he hadn't seen in 20 years. Voudouris was here this week to conduct the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in two concerts with internationally renowned Greek singer George Dalaras. The former classmates had a warm reunion before the concerts, at a reception in Dalaras's honor, at the residence of Greek Ambassador Sotiris Varouxakis. Among the guests was Simon Parassos, who hosts the MTV musical show *Taverna* and who for years has hosted radio programs featuring Greek music. Parassos relates that Dalaras's father, Lukas, was the most famous performer of rembetico, the "blues" sung by Greeks who had been exiles in Turkey, and that forty years ago he had thrilled local immigrants from



Practicing for the bad guy role? The premier says he'd like to join Schwarzenegger in a future production.



(Photos: Ariel Jerolimski and UPPA)

wanted. "Today I'm the mayor," he had said. "Who knows where I'll be tomorrow?" No one laughed harder than Milo himself. Despite pressing political issues Milo, who seldom stays at any function for more than an hour, cleared his schedule so he could spend the whole evening at the closing session of the 22nd meeting of the museum's international board of governors, of which he is chairman.

NATIONAL comedic treasure Tuvia Tsafir, who unstintingly gives his services to the Alyn Orthopedic Hospital for Handicapped Children, coined a phrase at its annual dinner dance at the Jerusalem Hyatt: "Bald is beautiful." Seeking to ally fears about the intentions of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Tsafir, impersonating King Hussein, declared that the Iraqi president will soon be joining the peace process. "Saddam Hussein has cancelled his edict to cut off his enemies' ears," he said. "But unfortunately, not too many people could hear the good news." Still on the subject of Saddam

Salonika by performing at the Arianna club in Jaffa.

SINGER David Broza, while on a concert tour of Australia, visited critically ill tennis player Sasha Elterman, one of the victims of the Maccabiah bridge disaster. Broza donated in excess of \$2,500 to a fund which has been set up to help pay for the 15-year-old's medical expenses.

IF his political career happens to fizzle, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu may have an alternative - in Hollywood. A natural in front of the TV cameras, Netanyahu may be even better in front of a movie camera. The PM, who is a great fan of actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, met him at the gala Aish Hatorah dinner in Los Angeles this week. After telling Arnie how much he enjoyed his movies, he added with a smile that he would love to join him in some future production. Ronald Reagan went from Hollywood to the White House, but since we're a right-to-left people, Bibi could well go from the Prime Minister's Office to Hollywood.

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### CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 7 Punish one of Seven Dwarfs for being careless (4,5)
  - 8 Studying the art of beer drinking? (3,2)
  - 10 The pineapple, long fruit with the top removed (6)
  - 11 Are changing part, part of the telephone (3,5)
  - 12 Evil article on a war peninsula (6)
  - 14 Higher residential area now put out (6)
  - 16 Regretfully, a girl lost a shilling (4)
  - 17 In modern times anger is publicly displayed (5)
  - 18 Appropriate at the present time (4)
  - 19 Third party gives proper guarantee in Spain (6)
  - 21 True, an odd character (6)
  - 24 One real tug can make it binding (8)
  - 26 First letter opened by a Philistine city girl (6)
  - 27 After dodging hail I found an excuse (5)
  - 28 Make cuts, that's what customers of a disabliging fishmonger did (5,4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Dressing after midnight brings a sparkle (5)
  - 2 Welcome order for riflemen waiting for weapon inspection (4,4)
  - 3 Light wood with head of match for relief from cold (6)
  - 4 Record the same note twice (can't be sharp (4)
  - 5 He's barely human (6)
  - 6 Bed-frame for marriage partners (5,4)
  - 9 There's a revolution on all sides (6)
  - 13 A body of gunmen turned on him (5)
  - 15 Seemingly reasonable it might make Bill pause (3)
  - 17 A hunched in a coach. You can count on it (6)
  - 18 Cartoons to display on a festive occasion (8)
  - 20 Close - doubly close in fact (6)
  - 22 Plant provided meek, as reported, the French conclude (6)
  - 23 Wrap fur for a writer over 50 (5)
  - 25 Eat out, and so on at Hindhead (4)

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**ACROSS:** 1 Stated, 4 Yards, 10 Shampoo, 11 Dalia, 13 Ezzed, 13 Brought, 15 Eddy, 17 Lasso, 27 Death, 28 Beer, 28 Synonym, 27 Exist, 29 Ears, 30 Totally, 31 Fanny, 32 Adore.

**DOWN:** 2 Trais, 3 Napples, 5 Andie, 6 Delight, 7 Ashes, 8 Doubt, 9 Betty, 14 Rye, 15 Toby, 16 Amnesia, 29 Revoked, 21 Asset, 25 Empty, 24 Stays, 26 Needs, 26 Idem.

**QUICK CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- 1 eg Lancelot (6)
- 4 Bag (5)
- 8 Stories (5)
- 9 Confident (7)
- 10 Ugly sight (7)
- 11 Label (4)
- 12 Novel (3)
- 14 Sparkling wine (4)
- 15 Boo (4)
- 18 Feline (3)
- 21 Distast (4)
- 23 Flead (7)
- 25 Dried fruit (7)
- 26 Lethal (5)
- 27 Kingdom (5)
- 28 Type of trousers (6)

**DOWN**

- 1 Infant cat (6)
- 2 Disease (7)
- 3 Momentous (8)
- 4 Trial (4)
- 5 Month (5)
- 6 - and betters (6)
- 7 Purloined (5)
- 13 Uneconomic (8)
- 16 Take cover (7)
- 17 Zodiac sign (6)
- 19 Tithe (5)
- 20 Staid (6)
- 22 Blood vessel (5)
- 24 Ranch (4)

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ous, private. Tel. 03-535-1534, 052-530-255. [13174]

**FOR SALE/RENT. COTTAGE. 8**  
rooms, renovated, air-conditioned, Givat Savoyon, immediate, private. Tel. 03-535-1534, 052-530-255. [13175]

**DWELLINGS**  
Southern Coast

**SALES**

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**FOR SALE. SUITE, Club Hotel, Eilat,**  
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**DWELLINGS**  
Sharon Area

**RENTALS**

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**HERZLIYA PITUAH, VILLA, 5, quiet,**  
\$2200. OREN DUNSKY. Tel. 09-987-3096, 050-517-636. [13376]

**HERZLIYA PITUAH, PENTHOUSE, 5,**  
furnished/unfurnished, \$1100. OREN DUNSKY. Tel. 09-957-3096, 050-517-636. [13377]

**DUPLEX, Kfar-Saba, 7-ROOMS,**  
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furnished cottage, \$2,800/month. MORAN REAL ESTATE (MALDAN). Tel. 09-957-2759. [11583]

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Sharon Area

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garden, beautiful, partially furnished. Tel. 09-958-2707. [11943]

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Sharon Area

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+ SALES: 5 rm, luxury apt, easy 520, view \$300,000  
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**ART GUIDE**

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**ART GUIDE**

**JERUSALEM**

**Museums**  
**OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM.** Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or Ha-Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE**  
**EMERGENCY PHARMACIES**

**FFriday, November 21**  
Jerusalem: Jaffa Gate, 828-3898; Bakaia, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Der Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.  
Tel Aviv: Bkit, 28 King George, 528-3731; Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 524-0461.  
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 3 Oshkhatzky, Kfar Sava, 765-8880.  
Netanya: Hanassi, 36 Weizmann, 882-3639.  
Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 833-3312.  
Kiryat area: Krayot, 1 Mahagana, Kiryat Bialik, 872-1065.  
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 3 Maslik (nr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mail, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Saturday, November 22**  
Jerusalem: (day) Kupat Holim Clalil, Straus 4, 3 Avigdon, 670-8660; (evening) Center Pharm, 20 Yad Hanutzim, 673-1475; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Der Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058; Tel Aviv: Habimam, 17 Dizengoff, 528-8465; Kupat Holim Macoabi, 7 Ha-Shila, 546-5558. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einsteim, Ramat Aviv, 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministors, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 695-0115.  
Rafanana-Kfar Sava: (day) Hadar, 12 Habanim, Hod Hasharon, 740-1435; (evening) Magdial, 54 Derech Magdial, Hod Hasharon, 741-5567.  
Netanya: Hasharon mail, Herzl, 861-7766.  
Haifa: Krayot Eliozer, 6 Mayerhoff Sq., 851-1707.  
Kiryat area: Superpharm, Halidyon, 44 Herzl, Krayot Bialik, 877-9320.  
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 3 Maslik (nr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 10 a.m. to midnight.

**Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir**  
Mail, 657-0468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**DUTY HOSPITALS**  
**Friday, November 21**  
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, pediatrics, ophthalmology); Sheara Zedek (surgery); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Bikur Holim (obstetrics, ENT).  
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery).  
Netanya: Laniado.  
**Saturday, November 22**  
Jerusalem: Hadassah Mt. Scopus (Internal, orthopedics); Sheara Zedek (surgery); Hadassah Ein Kerem (obstetrics, ophthalmology); Bikur Holim (pediatrics, ENT).  
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery).  
Netanya: Laniado.

**POLICE 100**

**FIRE 102**

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

**FIRST AID 101**

Magren David Adom  
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Ashdot 6501333 Kir Sava 9902222  
Ashkelon 8291252 Nahariya 9912233  
BeerSheva 8271757 Netanya 9604444  
Beit Shמש 6523133 P. Tivon 9311111  
Dan Region 5793333 Rehovot 9451333  
Eilat 6324444 Rishon 9642333  
Haifa 8512233 Sated 6203333  
Jerusalem 6523133 Tel Aviv 5460111  
Karmel 9885444 Tiberias 6792444

\* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock. Hot line for English-speakers, crisis counseling and referrals, all ages/problems. (02) 654-1111, toll-free 1-800-654-1111. Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-9205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day. For information call at poisoning.

Erin - Emotional First Aid - 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0308, Tel Aviv 548-1111 (children/youth 546-0739), Rishon LeZion 958-6661/2, Haifa 867-2222, BeerSheva 649-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6788.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 525-4111, 04-5111111, Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 859-0533, Eilat 833-1977.

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5, 24-hour service, confidentially guaranteed.

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-950-5720.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-851-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-855-0500.

Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chita St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jim. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.

Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7678.

Flight arrivals - for information in English 03-972-3344.

**MediaWorks: The Full Spectrum Of High-Tech Training**

**MediaWorks: The Company**  
The MediaWorks Center for Career Training was established to provide high-quality, professional career training to English speakers throughout Israel. The company employs top-level instructors who are experts in their fields, and so are uniquely qualified to prepare students for the high-tech market. The Center provides training courses, job search assistance, and career advice to its students, drawing on a wealth of experience and contacts in the high-tech community.

**MediaWorks Students**  
MediaWorks students come from all types of background: social workers, mechanical engineers, teachers, programmers, lawyers, and liberal arts majors. Some are seeking to start a new career, while others simply want to improve their skills, making them more valuable in their current position. MediaWorks graduates occupy positions at Israel's leading high-tech companies, including Israel Aircraft Industries, Sapiens, Aladdin, Edusoft, and Aureq.

**Facilities**  
MediaWorks has two centers, located in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem. The Ramat Gan center is conveniently located, a walking distance from the North Tel Aviv train station, making it a 45 minute train ride from Haifa. Both centers are equipped with networked Pentiums. (There is a one-to-one, computer/student ratio.) The facilities include multimedia work stations, color printing equipment, and scanners. MediaWorks is an NAEC (Novell Authorized Education Center) and as such has had its technical infrastructure approved by one of the world's major software vendors.

**Learning Materials**  
The MediaWorks management believes that, in order to have a serious learning experience, students need plenty of study materials. That is why textbooks and MediaWorks courseware are provided for all MediaWorks courses.

**Technical Writing**  
MediaWorks is Israel's major supplier of trained technical writers to high-tech companies. Students follow a rigorous syllabus, designed to give them the writing and desktop publishing skills they need, as well as lots of technical background knowledge and research and interview techniques. Students prepare an impressive portfolio and final project, which they can show to prospective employers.

**Network Management and PC Support**  
Companies throughout Israel are fully computerized, and their computers are all networked. They must have PC support engineers and network engineers, to keep their companies running smoothly. MediaWorks offers tracks for all major types of network engineering and PC support, all providing highly valued, internationally recognized, professional certificates. If networking interests you, you can become a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE), specializing in network management for Microsoft Windows NT, or a Certified Novell Engineer (CNE) for Novell Netware. Either way, you will be joining one of the highest paying professions in Israel. The MediaWorks PC support engineer track provides students with a complete package of the skills they need to begin work, and leads to two certificates: the "A+" in PC support, and the Certified Novell Administrator (CNA).

**Inside Track Job Search Assistance Program**  
MediaWorks supplies graduates with substantial job search support. The Inside Track program gives students the benefit of MediaWorks' connections in the high-tech market. MediaWorks graduate Malcolm Barnett, who works at Efrat Future Technology, explains: "MediaWorks not only gave me a solid grounding in my area of expertise, but also invaluable assistance in obtaining employment in the field. Career changes are exciting, but can be difficult and worrying as well. MediaWorks was always there, with clear, practical and effective guidance and encouragement."

**Media Development**  
Web publishing, computer graphics, and multimedia are all booming fields. The MediaWorks Web publishing course has earned a reputation for producing high quality professionals; the MediaWorks Multimedia course prepares professionals to work with Director, the major multimedia development package; and the Corel Draw course is a boost to any career that revolves around print or electronic media.

**Software Development**  
There is an extremely high demand for qualified software development personnel. Recent reports by the Ministry of Trade and Industry show that the

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**INVESTMENT**

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LADY NEEDED EVENINGS, Sun. - Thurs. 6:30 - 9:30 P.M. to tend to elderly lady, light work, Rehavia. Tel. 02-565-2644.

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**SEEKING EXPERIENCED EXECUTIVE** secretary, excellent Hebrew, fluent English & French, organizational & computer skills for small friendly agency. Fax C.V. to 02-623-2418. (13045)

**WOMEN'S TORAH INSTITUTE** seeks director of PR and recruitment for English programs. Fax CV 02-641-9752. (13045)

**BUSY ADULT EDUCATION INSTITUTE** seeks full-time secretary

Requirements:

- spoken English and Hebrew; knowledge of and experience with computers, Windows, Word.
- Databases
- basic bookkeeping, fundraising, good with people;
- ability to work under pressure with a smile.

Fax C.V. to: 02-586-0450 between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm (NS).

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- Full academic education.
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Qualified candidates are invited to send their CV in English, no later than December 12, 1997 to: Shmuel Ben-Tovim, c/o Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco - Israel Office, POB 7171, Jerusalem 91071.

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**MATRIMONIAL**







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**Mantle auction causes flap**  
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**Sports Editors**  
 Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

## Lloyd inks new pact

LONDON (AP) — David Lloyd signed a new contract yesterday to stay on as England cricket coach through the 1999 World Cup. The England and Wales Cricket Board extended Lloyd's original two-year pact. Lloyd will remain in charge for this winter's tours to Sharjah and the West Indies, next year's trip to Australia and home series against South Africa, Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

## Gazza banned for 5 matches

GLASGOW (AP) — Glasgow Rangers midfielder Paul Gascoigne was banned for five matches Thursday after surpassing the Scottish League's limit for disciplinary violations. The England star was sent off for violent conduct in Wednesday night's 1-1 draw against Celtic. That cost him 12 disciplinary points, taking his season total to 21 and beyond the threshold. Gascoigne must serve an automatic one-match ban for Wednesday's sending-off, which means he will miss tomorrow's game against Motherwell.

# Jones leads Lakers to a perfect 10 Maccabi trounces Moscow

INGLEWOOD (AP) — Eddie Jones scored 31 points, Shaquille O'Neal had 26 and Kobe Bryant 20 as undefeated Los Angeles won its 10th straight with a 118-93 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night. The Wolves brought their own franchise-record into the Forum — four straight road wins — and had the Lakers down by five in the first quarter. But Bryant and O'Neal restored order in the second quarter, keying a 21-6 run that gave the Lakers a 46-33 advantage. Minnesota never recovered. Tom Gugliotta led the Wolves with 22 points, and Kevin Garnett finished with 19.

Heat 122, Clippers 113  
 Host Miami scored a franchise-record 45 points in the first period and went on to hand Los Angeles its seventh consecutive loss. Tim Hardaway had a season-high 33 points in 31 minutes for Miami, and Isaac Austin tied a career-high with 26 points against the NBA's second-worst defense. Hornets 106, Trail Blazers 92  
 Glen Rice teamed with David Wesley to fuel a third-quarter run that helped Charlotte end Portland's perfect road record. The Trail Blazers lost for the first time in five road games this season. Portland got 18 points apiece from Isaiah Rider, Arvydas Sabonis and Rasheed Wallace. 76ers 97, Wizards 86  
 Allen Iverson scored 29 points and Philadelphia picked up its first home victory and first win against an Eastern Conference opponent by beating Washington. Clarence Weatherspoon added 16 points, Derrick Coleman had

13 points and 12 rebounds and Scott Williams 11 rebounds for the Sixers, who were 0-4 at home and 0-5 against Eastern teams. Nets 108, Celtics 100  
 Jayson Williams had 27 points and 13 rebounds and host New Jersey ended the Celtics' four-game winning streak. Coach Rick Pitino and Antoine Walker were ejected during the second half as the Celtics saw their record slip to 5-6. Magic 96, Cavaliers 93 (OT)  
 Derek Strong came off the bench to score 20 points and Orlando erased a 20-point deficit in the fourth quarter to win on the road. The Magic, who won their fourth straight without injured Penny Hardaway, outscored Cleveland 31-17 in the fourth and 9-6 in the extra period to deny the Cavs' the 1,000th victory in franchise history.

Spurs 108, Warriors 87  
 David Robinson scored 21 points and Tim Duncan added 19 as host San Antonio dealt Golden State its ninth straight loss to start the season. Golden State's 0-9 start is the worst in franchise history. Sonics 107, Grizzlies 87  
 Gary Payton scored a season-high 31 points and handed out 11 assists and Detlef Schrempf added 23 points as Seattle won at home. The Grizzlies, after falling behind by 25 points in the first half, closed to 84-80 with 6:02 left. But the Sonics responded with a 23-7 blitz the rest of the way. Shaheed Abdur-Rahim led Vancouver with 25 points and seven rebounds. Blue Edwards came off the bench for 14 points.

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Miami	7	3	.700
New Jersey	6	3	.667
Orlando	7	4	.636
New York	6	4	.600
Boston	5	6	.455
Washington	4	7	.364
Philadelphia	3	6	.333
Central Division			
Atlanta	11	0	1.000
Charlotte	6	3	.667
Chicago	6	4	.600
Memphis	6	4	.600
Indiana	4	5	.444
Cleveland	4	6	.400
Detroit	4	7	.364
Toronto	1	9	.100

WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Midwest Division			
Team	W	L	Pct.
San Antonio	7	3	.700
Minnesota	6	4	.600
Utah	5	5	.500
Houston	4	5	.444
Vancouver	5	7	.417
Dallas	3	7	.300
Denver	0	9	.000
Pacific Division			
L.A. Lakers	10	0	1.000
Seattle	8	3	.727
Phoenix	5	2	.750
Portland	3	7	.300
Sacramento	3	7	.300
L.A. Clippers	1	10	.091
Golden State	0	9	.000



BEHEMOTH BATTLE — Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal and Timberwolves Cherokee Parks go after a loose ball in second-quarter action. The Lakers won their 10th straight game, 118-93. (Reuters)

Maccabi Tel Aviv returned to the map of the European elite with its biggest margin of victory ever over CSKA Moscow, 87-69 at Yad Eliahu last night. Hapoel Jerusalem also won its EuroLeague contest last night at Malha with an 88-84 overtime victory over Partizan Belgrade. Adi Gordon led the victors with 26 points, followed by Kenny Williams' 20. Maccabi, playing before a boisterous capacity crowd, continued its momentum from its thrilling road win over Real Madrid last week to post its most impressive victory this season. Rashard Griffith had his best game of the season, scoring 20 points on 8-12 from the field, pulling down 11 rebounds, blocking 3 shots and clogged the middle against the CSKA big men. Oded Kaish led all scorers with 29 points, including 3-5 from three-point range and 8-9 from the free-throw line, while Doron Sheffer also contributed an all-around good game with 18 points (6-9 from the field, 6-8 from the line), 4 rebounds and 4 assists. Randy White chipped in 10, Borko Radovic 6 and Nadav Henefeld 4. The victory, combined with Real Madrid's 81-78 upset of Efes Pilsen in Istanbul, moves the Israelis into a second place tie in Group A with a 4-4 record. CSKA, which had beaten Maccabi four straight times and had not lost to Tel Aviv since December 15, 1994, came out looking like it was going to give the Israelis a difficult night, especially with an unusually hot Valeri Tikhonenko scoring 18 first-half points (he entered with a 7.3 average). When the teams entered the locker room all knotted at 44, it appeared another classic nail-biting finish was in store for the fans. But midway through the second half, Maccabi had built up a 64-58 margin, thanks in large part to strong inside moves from Griffith and the ability of his teammates to get him the ball in good position. It was from that point that Maccabi fans witnessed the team's best basketball of the season as Tel Aviv scored 15 unanswered points, holding Moscow scoreless for more than eight minutes and assuring that the Israelis would hold a tie-breaker advantage over the Russians by defeating them by more than the 71-63 margin CSKA beat Maccabi in Moscow. Particularly impressive on the defensive end was Henefeld, who held Valeri Daineko, CSKA's leading scorer at 17.9 a game, to only 7 points and none in the second half. Tikhonenko led CSKA with 18 points. In other Group A action yesterday, it was Madrid 81, Efes Pilsen 78 and Limoges 66, Olympiakos 60. In Group C, Pau-Orthez beat Ulker 77-76 and Kinder Bologna won 83-70 over Barcelona.

Our Department of Foreign Affairs also said that we will have to make special arrangements with our food, said Hill, who arrived Wednesday in Dubai. He said that if the Iranians wanted to make similar arrangements when they arrive for the second leg in Melbourne next week, "Soccer Australia will respect that and provide every help we can." Australia and Iran will play two games — in Tehran tomorrow and in Melbourne November 29 — to decide the final berth in the World Cup finals next year in France. Hill angered Iranian and FIFA authorities earlier when he said he feared for the safety of his players because of rowdy fans, contaminated water and bad food, and the US-Iraq tension that could lead to a war in the Gulf. Hill said his comments had been "misinterpreted by some sections of the media, especially in Australia, that we are unhappy to play in Iran."

EUROLEAGUE GROUP A

Team	W	L	Pct.
Olympiakos	5	2	.714
Maccabi Tel Aviv	4	4	.500
CSKA Moscow	4	4	.500
Efes Pilsen	4	4	.500
Real Madrid	3	5	.375
Limoges	3	5	.375

EUROLEAGUE GROUP C

Team	W	L	Pct.
Kinder Bologna	7	1	.875
Barcelona	5	3	.625
Partizan Belgrade	4	4	.500
Ulker	3	5	.375
Pau-Orthez	3	5	.375
Hapoel Jerusalem	2	6	.250

## Sanchez Vicario, Fernandez rally to win 3-setters

NEW YORK (AP) — Lindsay Davenport, No. 2 in the world, was up a set and a service break. Just hold serve two more times. Monica Seles, seeded fifth in this season-ending tournament, was up a set and two service breaks. Neither won. Instead, Mary Joe Fernandez and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario are in the quarterfinals of the \$2 million Chase Championships. Fernandez knocked off Davenport 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(9-7) before Sanchez Vicario bounced Seles 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. Next up for Fernandez will be the reigning French Open champi-

on, eighth-seeded Irina Spirlea of Romania, while Sanchez Vicario will face No. 2 Jana Novotna. The quarterfinals were set to begin last night when top-seeded Martina Hingis played No. 7 Mary Pierce, followed by No. 6 Iva Majoli against Nathalie Tauziat, who, like Fernandez and Sanchez Vicario, is unseeded. "I don't know quite what happened at 4-1" in the second set, Seles said. "I missed that one volley and everything starts changing and I couldn't get my rhythm back." By the time Seles did, Sanchez Vicario had won 10 of the next 12

games, going from a 1-4 deficit in the second set to a 5-2 lead in the third. She didn't let her chance slip by. Sanchez Vicario was on the left sideline, the right sideline, the baseline, at the net. She was everywhere, getting the ball back, making Seles hit one more shot, then another, then another. When things looked bleakest for Fernandez, she slipped and fell on the Madison Square Garden carpet. "I was extremely embarrassed after the fall, to be honest," said Fernandez, who didn't know if she tripped or slipped. "All I know is I hit a good shot ... and the next thing I knew, my feet left me." But the fall coincided with a momentum swing that toppled her former doubles partner.

## Iran remarks 'misinterpreted'

DUBAI (AP) — Australian soccer chairman David Hill, who angered Iranian authorities with remarks about negative playing conditions in Tehran, said yesterday his team was looking forward to the World Cup playoff match against Iran. Offering an apparent olive branch, Hill said that his comments about conditions in Iran for tomorrow's crucial game were based on information provided by the Australian Foreign Ministry. "The logistical nightmare we spoke about was not a concern of Iran. We had to get our coaches and players from different countries at such a short notice," said Hill, speaking in Dubai where the Australians have been training in preparation for the first leg of the two-leg playoff.

Our Department of Foreign Affairs also said that we will have to make special arrangements with our food, said Hill, who arrived Wednesday in Dubai. He said that if the Iranians wanted to make similar arrangements when they arrive for the second leg in Melbourne next week, "Soccer Australia will respect that and provide every help we can." Australia and Iran will play two games — in Tehran tomorrow and in Melbourne November 29 — to decide the final berth in the World Cup finals next year in France. Hill angered Iranian and FIFA authorities earlier when he said he feared for the safety of his players because of rowdy fans, contaminated water and bad food, and the US-Iraq tension that could lead to a war in the Gulf. Hill said his comments had been "misinterpreted by some sections of the media, especially in Australia, that we are unhappy to play in Iran."

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